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Breaking down the best MBA football players since 2000

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THE BELL RINGER



Montgomery Bell Academy

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Basketball season ends in surprise semis run

By Davis Lovvorn
Asst. Features Editor

After a slow start to the season, the Big Red basketball squad, led by head coach Kevin Anglin, elevated their level of play to finish on a strong note.

MBA ended the season with a record of 14-14, something especially impressive considering they started the season with an 0-6 record in conference play. The Big Red won six of their last seven conference regular season games, with the only loss coming against Ensworth, 78-73.

Perhaps what keyed the late-season run was a buzzer-beater by Kamani Hodges against Brentwood Academy. Down big in the last minute, the senior led the Big Red back from its large deficit. Losing by one point with time expiring, Hodges launched a contested three-pointer that found the bottom of the net, giving the Big Red a 56-54 win.

The game against BA was the Big Red's first conference win of the season. They never looked back. Said senior center Tom Kaiser, "Once we got that buzzer-beater win against BA, we started playing

>> BASKETBALL, 14



SUP, ARNE?: Adam exchanges the secrets to a well-rounded post game with Secretary of Education and basketball junkie Arne Duncan. Just kidding, they talked about how much they hate books.

COURTESY OF ADAM BOWMAN

SHOW INTEL Adam Bowman's perfect pun

By Matt Miccioli
Staff Writer

Placing third in the Intel Science Talent Search in Washington, DC, Adam Bowman reached a fitting conclusion to his science fair career, in what is widely regarded as the most prestigious academic competition of any kind open to high school students.

Adam developed a simple apparatus for confining and studying

plasmas at low costs. Pulsed plasma sources are typically large and complex, making them impractical for portable applications and small-scale research.

His approach uses low-voltage electronics to achieve the same confinement and plasma characteristics as conventional devices. He also developed a fiber-optics system for tracking the plasma's movement using inexpensive, off-the-shelf components.

The Science Talent Search selects

40 finalists, all of whom are awarded \$7,500 for qualifying, from a pool of 300 semi-finalists, based on their project and research. However, the final evaluation of the 40 finalists is an assessment of their potential as future scientists in conjunction with scientific advancements.

This year was the first ever that Tennessee students advanced to the national competition.

The competitors were provided

>> BOWMAN, 4

Poverty Symposium a resounding success

By Aaron Kaplan
Staff Writer

Over spring break two students, Adam Biesman and Chris Habermann, accompanied by Mr. Sawyer, Mr. Quinn, and Mr. Gioia, represented MBA and the United States at the annual International Symposium. This year's symposium focused on the topic of poverty and was hosted at the African Leadership Academy in Johannesburg, South Africa - a fitting location to experience the contrast between wealth and extreme poverty.

Throughout the week, Adam and Chris explored the issue of poverty through speeches, discussions, essays, and hands-on experiences. Upon their Sunday arrival,

the ten participating schools (including the familiar Winchester College and Raffles Institute) were welcomed by the African Leadership Academy with a speech from one of its founders and an opening ceremony presented by the school. The group rested up before the second day's activities.

Day 2 - Monday - began with a talk from Dr. Nkosana Moyo, the Executive Chairman at the Mandela Institute of Developing Studies. A discussion on the causes of poverty was followed by essay work based upon the beginning of the Symposium. Adam and Chris were chosen to read their essay to the Symposium crowd. Day 2 concluded with a presentation about the African Leadership Academy and a

viewing of the film "Dear Mandela."

Day 3 - Tuesday - included leadership activities and a talk from Mr. James Mwangi about his plans for relieving poverty. Another discussion followed - this one about solutions to poverty. In response to the morning's activities, school groups then worked on refining and writing their essays.

Day 4 - Wednesday - was comprised of two speakers and a hands-on activity exploring distribution of resources.

Day 5 - Thursday - featured a trip to Kliptown and a discussion activity known as "fishbowl talks." During this visit to Kliptown (a township with 45,000 people and no electricity), students got to

>> POVERTY, 2

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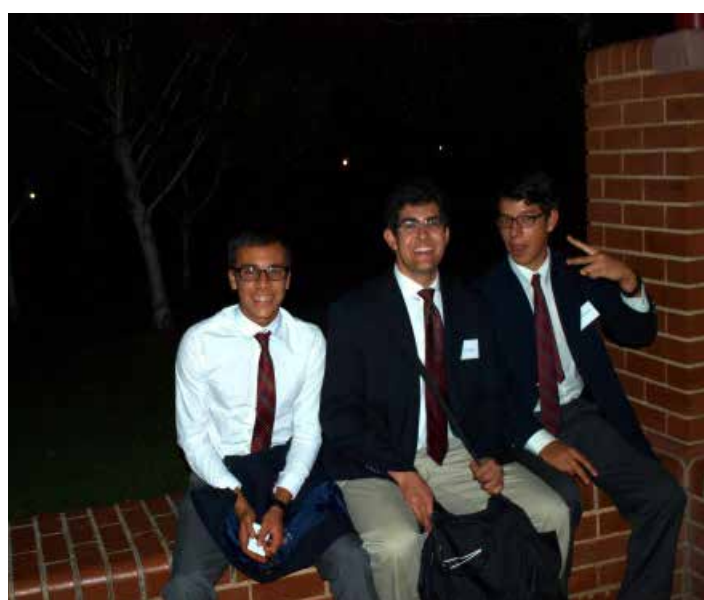


THINK DIFFERENT



The state of creativity at MBA

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CAPTION: The ten-school panel gathers for discussion (top), Chris Habermann making friends (bottom left), Chris Habermann, Adam Biesman and Mr. Gioia doing work (bottom right)

COURTESY OF CHRIS HABERMANN

Symposium offers poverty perspectives

>> **SYMPOSIUM, 1**
hear from the Executive Director of the Kliptown Youth Program and a former CNN Hero. His program is a youth-support program that works in the impoverished Kliptown community. Student visitors were able to see a dancing performance by KYP youth. MBA junior Adam Biesman told me that although he was nervous about the visit, he was welcomed warmly and left Kliptown with an entirely new perspective. There was an ensuing discussion activity that afternoon.

On Day 6 - Friday - the Symposium heard from a former Deputy President of South Africa (the equivalent of an American Vice-president) and teachers then gave presentations. Students were then divided into groups that would create an accord - a propositional solution to poverty at the international level. Adam Biesman was elected the chairperson of the accord writing assembly. Along with these group accords, each school was responsible for its own separate declaration. A final banquet, at which these accords were presented, and a celebration closed out the Symposium. On the final day, the remaining schools went on a safari.

In addition to working within the host African Leadership Academy, students and teachers were able to experience the positive side of South African culture

firsthand, beyond speakers, essays and discussions. On Tuesday, the symposium groups visited Mandela Square - a wealthy shopping district. On Wednesday, students saw a South African play focusing on South African Apartheid and got to eat at a traditional African buffet. Chris Habermann told me that "perhaps the most interesting thing in South Africa was the stark contrast between the lives of the richest and the poorest," adding that, "The richest lived behind ten foot walls with electric wires on top in huge houses while the poorest lived in shacks made of cardboard and tin."

The main focus of the Symposium was poverty, and everyone there was exposed to many opinions and ideas about the topic. Adam Biesman said that before the Symposium he simply thought of poverty as a situation involving people who struggled to succeed and survive due to a lack of resources. After the symposium, however, Adam felt that he achieved a greater recognition for the differences in poverty throughout the world. He says that because each country has to approach poverty differently, an international plan is not ideal. Chris Habermann said that his view on poverty has changed to focus more on the mental aspect of the poor. He has concluded that "often the poor are put down by more affluent people so that they

feel worthless, stripping them of their self-confidence and making it harder for them to get themselves out of poverty." He also believes that relieving poverty needs to shift more from aid to investment in order to promote entrepreneurship.

As part of the Symposium's mission, each participating school group works on their own local project to further explore the issue at hand. This year, Adam and Chris will be partnering with *The Contributor* because of its progress in relieving local poverty. In general, Adam believes that MBA students should "take a step back" before examining their hardships. Because of our status as citizens in a privileged country and community, our hardships might be comparable to the wealthy or middle class of another country.

Adam and Chris both extremely enjoyed the experience and encourage as many people as possible to apply for next year's Symposium, which will be held in Prague and will focus on culture, arts, and architecture. Not only do participants explore a specific topic very intimately, but they have opportunities to meet people from all around the world and appreciate many different cultures. According to Adam and Chris, "the preparation is challenging but it is worth the experience."

Big Red nabs Science Olympiad gold at TSU

By Kang Huh
Staff Writer

On February 16, a group of students travelled to Tennessee State University to compete in a rigorous series of academic competitions known as Science Olympiad. With many exciting events such as the "Elastic Glider" and the "Robot Arm," the Division C team once again dominated the competition.

Led by distinguished seniors Adam Bowman, Hunter Tidwell, Kevin Wang, Chris Habermann and Tom Bu, the team was once again effectively able to protect their title as six-time regional champions against rivals such as Harpeth Hall.

The team took many top positions at the competitions, placing in fourteen events out of a total of fifteen events, well establishing MBA's Division C team as a contender for its sixth consecutive regional title. Of those fourteen events, the team took first in seven events, marking a plurality of first place titles in the whole competition.

Most notably, however, was the team's winning the "Gravity Vehicle," "Robot Arm," and "Boommilever" events, which were headed by master builders Sam Hurd, Hunter Tidwell, Adam Bowman, and Sam Papel. These three events constituted all of the build events at the competition. The build events are crucial for team success, and their performance at the regional competition bodes well for success at the state level.

The written tests were equally impressive, as the only event that the team did not place in was "Write It, Do It," a challenging event that involves one team member writing a description of an object and how to build it, while the other receives the instructions and follows the instructions. With only 55 available minutes to do the event, it was the only one that the team lost.

However, by placing second in other events such as "Astronomy," "Experimental Design," and "Materials Science," the team was able to win the top score against other schools, and took the title of regional champions for the sixth consecutive year.

On April 6, the team will travel to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville to compete in a full list of 23 events, eight of which Tennessee State University decided not to host. With a wider array of events, the Division C team hopes to "grab the gold," looking to defend their title as fourth consecutive state champions.

With such an impressive group of students, there is no doubt that the group has an extremely good chance to dominate the competitions once more.



LAWYER UP: Lawyers John Mellow, Benjamin Haynes and Aaron Kaplan prepare for a round (left), the team accepts its award (top right), star witness McKay Proctor in action (bottom right)



COURTESY OF THE TENNESSEE BAR ASSOCIATION

Worth his Wade in Gold

Mock Trial team rallies around coach to reach second in State

By Sam Weien
Business Manager

In late February, the MBA mock trial team led by alumnus Mr. Wade Cowan traveled to the Municipal Courthouse downtown to participate in the Middle Tennessee regional mock trial competition. After a year of preparation and a day full of both law and order, MBA's top team took first place, while the second team grabbed third.

In a mock trial round, one school acts as the plaintiffs while the other school acts as the defendants. Each team presents an opening statement, interrogates three of its own witnesses, cross-examines the other team's witnesses, and ends with a closing argument. The jury for each round consists of three local attorneys who rate each presentation on a ten-point scale. The student-lawyers are judged on how well they know the case and how well they are able to use objections to further their arguments. Student-witnesses are judged on their ability

to handle cross-examination questions and how believably and interestingly they portray their characters.

The team has been meeting since the beginning of the school year, preparing for the competition. In the beginning, each student receives a role or roles to play in the case. Then the team begins to learn not only the witness testimony and the structure of the case, but also the questions used for both cross and direct examination. Around two weeks before the date of the competition, the team travels to the courthouse in order to rehearse in the legal setting.

MBA's mock trial teams have consistently done well in the competition since its inception in 1988. This year marks a three-peat for the team in the Davidson County competition, but they have won it six other times before this streak. Additionally, the team won the state competition in 1993 and 1995, as well as finishing second in 1990 and 1992.

Building off of last year's sixth place finish, the top mock trial team

attended the state competition once again in Nashville. Senior leaders John Mellow, McKay Proctor, Benjamin Haynes, Bradley Long and Christian Sargent guided the rest of the team with their many years of mock-trial experience.

Rounding out the squad were Aaron Kaplan, Clay Andreen, Cole Campbell, Armand Jhala, and Chris Burrus. The team was poised for success in the upcoming state competition, and they lived up to the expectations. The team achieved a second place finish to the Kingsport Area Christian Home Education Association, and McKay Proctor won the award for the top defense witness in the state.

According to Mr. Cowan, "This year's team is the most experienced and talented team from top to bottom that I have ever coached. It is a very motivated and dedicated group."

Even though the valuable seniors will not be on the team next year, the MBA mock trial team will have the foundation to once again have a great season.

Department news roundup

By John Triplett
Staff Writer

The academic departments are becoming increasingly active as they enter the last quarter of the school year. Here is the major news coming from each department.

In the **Mathematics Department**, many students recently took the AMC, and four of them—seniors Hunter Tidwell and Jake Simons and freshmen Alvin Zhang and Tony Ding—qualified for and took the next test, the AIME, on March 14. Mrs. Qian and her MathCounts team also competed in the State MathCounts Competition over Spring Break, winning the competition, with Mrs. Qian advancing to coach and Tony Huang advancing to compete at the national competition. In Interscholastic Math League competitions, MBA finished strong, taking first in Calculus, Geometry and Algebra II and second in Algebra I. MBA will defend its championship in five of six categories at the State Math Contest

at Lipscomb University on April 16.

In the **Science Department**, the Science Olympiad team will look to continue its three year winning streak when it heads to the State Competition at the University of Tennessee Knoxville to defend its state title on April 6. Also, the Physics Bowl test is coming up in early April.

In the **English Department**, novelist Inman Majors, author of *Love's Winning Plays*, *The Millionaires*, and *Wonderdog*, will be coming to MBA on April 25 and 26 to visit classes, meet with some student writers, and give a public reading. He will be reading at 5:30 pm in the Dead Poets Society Room on April 25th. Mr. Majors will also judge the the Rascoe-Bond Davis Poetry Contest, and the three winners of that competition will read their poems at his reading.

In the **Language Department**, the Wilson Grants have been distributed to students and will allow many recipients to go all over the world, from China to

Colombia to Rome, to study language and immerse themselves in cultures. Others will attend immersion camps around the US as well. Over spring break, some of the Latin scholars of the Classics Club competed in the Junior Classical League Competition in Murfreesboro.

Of course, the **Arts Department** has a very busy spring with the event of the semester, Endada, coming up on April 27th. One Act plays directed by Dr. Fuller's theater class are in preparation and a student art show will open in late April. The singers of the Chamber Choir will be performing in the State Choral Competition in late April. The department kicked off this busy time with the huge successes that were the competition one-act, *The Elephant Man*, at SETC in Louisville and the Full Moon Film Festival. Additionally, the department has met with architects about the transformation of the old dining hall area into new music space.

Fitness tests in second semester prove controversial

By Wesley Jenkins
Staff Writer

With the start of the spring season, once again each grade collectively has to get up early on a Friday morning to test fitness. As many wonder, why it is required to do this twice? Why do in-season athletes need to be tested? Or just why in general do they have to perform this monotonous and unproductive burden? The test is not as inane as it seems. According to Mr. O'Neal it has a much higher purpose.

The Presidential Physical Fitness test is a nationwide test of fitness that requires a student to complete tests in push ups, sit ups, shuttle run, v-sit, and a mile run.

These five tests are geared towards testing upper body strength, core strength, agility, flexibility, and endurance respectively. Even though many wonder if the test is actually a true measurement of fitness, Mr. O'Neal believes that it is better suited as a comparison because "fitness can be broadly defined due to factors such as physiology."

By requiring the fitness test, MBA is able to track students' progress through the year. As Mr. O'Neal says, "the test itself may not be a great judge of fitness, but the repetition of the test allows for the student to see if his fitness is progressing over time." Since the Presidential Physical Fitness test is widely used, the athletic department sees it most fitting to use it for the school's purposes of repetitive evaluation.

As for the increased testing in recent years, the spring repetition has always been in the plans; the time just wasn't there. Because the school's motto is "Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete," MBA feels compelled to apply each part to the entire student body, even with the athletic requirement. As a whole, Mr. O'Neal says, "The fitness tests have gotten better since the introduction of the second test."

This increasing trend toward success on the fitness test also shows the increasing health of MBA as a whole. With required sports and awareness of healthy eating, the school as a whole is much healthier than before these policies were mandated.

As Coach O'Neal said, "Different sports require different tests of fitness, so a general test is also needed as a baseline."

Yet many students still wonder why they must take a second fitness test even if they have been in a sport all year and possibly have already taken a test specific to the sport.

Here Mr. O'Neal believes that taking the test of a class is important; the "competition" of the test allows for "camaraderie" that builds a stronger class. With this justification, the school will continue fitness testing students in the second semester.

PLASMA PROJECT PREVAILS

Bowman wins 3rd place, \$50,000 at Intel Science Fair

>> BOWMAN, 1

five star accommodations for their week in Washington. As Adam commented, "We stayed in the St. Regis Hotel which was right down the street from the White House. All of the accommodations and meals were amazing. The hotel had their own dessert chef who would make cream-filled chocolate computers (for the Intel theme), chocolate models of the Capitol and White House, and more for us. The bathroom mirrors had built-in television screens. There were also two omelet chefs dedicated to our group for breakfast. There were more staff members than contestants!"

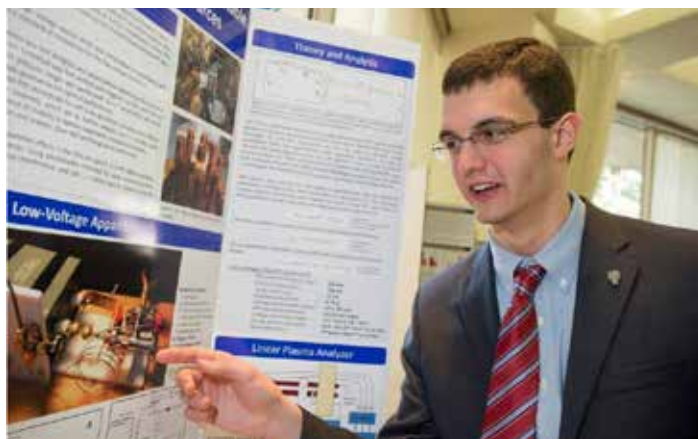
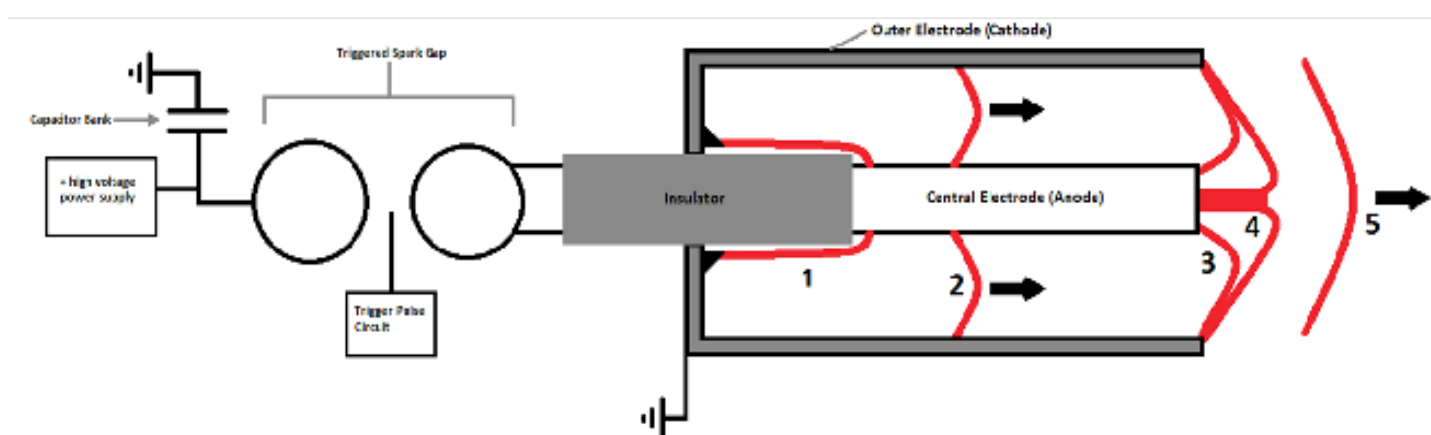
Interviews were held for the first two days, with competitors paired with rotating panels of three judges asking questions specific to their projects and of general scientific knowledge.

"The questions are notoriously hard, with finalists leaving their interviews crying in past years. It was certainly the most harrowing part of the competition," said Adam.

Questions included: "How would you improve nuclear power plant design?" "Why did the wildebeest herd cross the river and why would you want to be the first wildebeest to cross?" "Describe the ethical complications of DNA sequencing; and derive an equation for the probability of life in the universe."

To supplement the private interviews, the third day consisted of two periods in standard science fair format, with three hours of presentation only to judges followed by three hours of presentation open to the public.

Adam explained, "The judges also observed our presentations to the public to see how we explained our projects in a



INTEL SCIENCE FAIR: A sketch of Bowman's plasma apparatus (top), Bowman presenting his ideas (bottom left), the Intel awards ceremony (bottom right) **COURTESY OF ADAM BOWMAN**

less technical way and how we interacted socially. I had a chance to present my work to the Secretary of Education."

In day four the finalists heard speeches from and were allowed to converse with Intel employees in reverse science fair format. "That day I got to eat at a table with the president of the SSP (Society for Science, which runs the STS competition) and the CEO of the Intel Foundation," commented Adam.

"The next day we were addressed by President Obama for about six or seven minutes and he shook each of our hands. I also got a chance to meet with Congressman Marsha Blackburn."

"On the fifth day during the awards ceremony I was seated at a table with the Secretary of Energy and Nobel Laureate in physics, Steven Chu. Robert Horvitz, chairman of SSP and a Nobel laureate in biology was also at the table."

Out of the field of forty, Bowman's device only placed behind two other projects, one that enhances algae for biofuels and another dealing with protein binding.

Adam said, "Experiencing this competition has been really unimaginable. All of the finalists were amazing to interact with, and many of the friendships and connections I have made will be invaluable in the future."

Seniors delight in the return of Intramurals

By Michael Piana
Staff Writer

The spring season at MBA has for some teams featured two athletics options for students to relax and enjoy the last quarter of school. Many people have participated in the senior season off and intramurals, but recently the availability of these options has shrunk. The school decided to alter the system this spring to keep seniors occupied and contributing to the school.

The senior season off is not, as Coach O'Neil says, actually a season off. To be able to avoid athletics in the spring, seniors must be working on another project, whether at school or in private.

Having a job, working on the theater productions, or playing on a travel team are some of the activities seniors can do in lieu of an athletic credit, but they must be approved by Coach O'Neal and the school.

Despite the loss of the season off, seniors can still enjoy intramurals, which is now an option only for seniors. Underclassmen now have to spend the spring in weights and running if they do not play a sport. The change will prevent the overcrowding that intramurals sometimes faces and will allow the seniors to enjoy the last weeks of their time at MBA playing basketball together.

Some people might think that the new rules for intramurals and



GET BUCKETS: Hayden and Henry hoop it up during free time, a precursor to the current Senior intramurals.

PARRISH PRESTON/BR

the season off may be too strict, but they are designed to help the school and the students. These rules could be tweaked more in the future, but

they have already shown a positive impact and increased participation in the spring season.



**SCOTT PORTIS, MBA CLASS OF 1984
AND OWNER OF MOE'S, SAYS:**

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OPINIONS: Gun Control

THE BLUE CORNER: EXPANDED GUN CONTROL STEMS DEATHS

By **Bradley Long**
Staff Writer

4400. A huge number when talking about deaths. It represents the number of U.S. troops killed in seven years of war in Iraq. 5000, an even bigger number, however, is the number of people killed on average in two months by guns in the United States.

Whether we want to admit it or not, we have a gun violence problem in our country. The problem is complex, far reaching, and difficult to quantify. The most visible manifestation of this violence occurs in the mass shootings that plague the nation sporadically.

For weeks we see the names and faces plastered on news until they fail to register at all. However terrible they may be, the real issue lies not in this types of event. These instances constitute a small piece of the 30,000 Americans killed each year with guns, with far more killed on a day-to-day basis.

Today, gun violence is on pace to overtake car accidents as the leading cause of injury-related death in the U.S. by 2015. Think about that. You will be more likely to be shot and killed than to die in a car wreck. This problem can no longer be ignored.

The relationship between gun ownership and gun deaths cannot be denied. Violence exists everywhere in the world with rates of violence differing little among our peer nations, Australia, Canada, the UK, etc. However, where we fail to live up to these standards is in the rate of gun deaths.

Every developed nation in the world has a gun death rate less than half that of America's. Why do we stand out so much from our peers?

A study from the Harvard School of Public Health has shown that it may be connected to the extremely high level of gun ownership - over 85 guns per 100 people in the U.S. Even excluding the outlier data of the United States, there is a clear relationship between gun ownership and gun homicides.

Still, the majority of gun deaths in the U.S. come not from homicide but from suicide or accident. So the problem is just carelessness and suicide, right? Wrong. Surprise, surprise...Guns actually make accidents much more likely to happen.

But guns have nothing to do with suicide? Wrong again. If a gun is available in a house, it not only increases the suicide attempt rate, but also drastically increases the success rate.

The relationship is clear: more guns yield more gun deaths. The question now is not whether guns are a problem, but how to solve said problem.

Some key gun control measures have been put forward both by President Obama and Senate Democrats like Dianne Feinstein, who has put forth a bill to reintroduce the assault weapons ban to make the sale of such weapons illegal.

The bill, which has the President's support, would also ban large ammunition clips of more than 10 rounds. The results of such legislation would be minimal, however,

as they are mainly aimed at curbing the mass shootings that garner so much attention nationally.

The main focus of recent efforts is to institute mandatory background checks on the sale of all guns. The largest and most important of the proposed measures, this new background check system would expand the current system to include private sales conducted at gun shows. Background checks are effective in keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill.

Right now, 40% of guns are sold privately, so a majority of guns used criminally are purchased without a check. Measures like these checks take necessary steps to curb gun violence without a massive overhaul of our system.

Before shouts of tyranny come raining down, let's look at the type of support these efforts garner. By a recent poll from Johns Hopkins' Bloomberg School of Public Health, 68% of Americans support the ban of high capacity clips, 69% support an assault weapons ban, and an overwhelming 89% support the background checks on all gun sales.

These are not efforts to take away the guns. No one is assaulting the Second Amendment. Our country has simply realized the reality of gun violence in America: it is far too prevalent, and we must do something about it.

The data supports the claim that guns lead to gun deaths, the proposals are there for sensible gun control, and public opinion supports these measures. So why is this still an issue?

In our politics today, we have one side proposing a possible solution, and one side refusing to listen to the people they serve.

These measures won't pass without bipartisan support, but at the moment the GOP refuses to even join the discussion, choosing instead to cover its ears and ignore the problem.

I won't say that these gun control efforts will stop gun violence entirely. However, if we don't even make an attempt to solve this problem, we will have failed mightily.

Regardless of political affiliation, the evidence leads to one overwhelming conclusion: it's time to admit we have a problem. A gun problem.

THE RED CORNER: DON'T BLAME FIREARMS FOR VIOLENCE

By **Michael Milam**
Staff Writer

Firearms are not the reason we have mass killings. They are not the reason we have crime in our cities, nor are they the reason for murder. They prevent crime and killing.

If a man had the intent to commit a mass-murder, where would he go? He would go to a place, such as a school or mall, in which guns are not permitted. These "no-gun zones" do nothing except invite crime. Guns help the populace protect itself from killers and other criminals.

A gun is nothing more than a weapon. Weapons can kill, sure, but all weapons can kill. Scissors are effective weapons. Bombs make just as good a weapon. As we learned from the game *Clue*, even ropes, candlesticks, and wrenches can be used as weapons.

Should we take measures to make schools "no scissors zones?" They don't really foster a good learning environment, do they? Cars kill people too, so shouldn't we ban cars, as it would save so many lives?

As Vice President Joe Biden told us, "if your actions result in only saving one life, they're worth taking."

However, just as cars are critical to our lifestyle, guns are critical to self-defense.

America already has a high enough

black market for guns. If guns were outlawed, this market would only exponentially increase, as proven by the 18th Amendment and Prohibition. If a man intends to kill, he isn't going to pay attention to gun prevention laws. The prohibition of guns would only take the guns from the righteous and just man.

The main point, however, against gun regulation is not the practicality of guns, but the protection guns have under the Constitution. The Constitution guarantees the right to bear arms. "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Many opponents to guns would argue that the wording of the text suggests that the only reason the writers intended guns to be kept was for the furnishing of a militia. Such opponents to guns would then argue that with today's standing army, this amendment is rendered void, as the amendment grants the states the right to furnish a militia, but not individuals the right to have arms. The ACLU takes this

stance and argues that the reasoning and original intent behind the amendment is such that it is being misused by advocates of guns today.

The original intent of the law, however, was indeed to furnish a military, but specifically to furnish the *people's* militia. The Constitution gives Congress the power to establish a federal army for a span of two years. The militia of the people was created in order to keep power in the hands of the people because both the Federalists and Anti-Federalists at the time had a great fear of central authority.

As stated in John Locke's treatises on government, the social contract between citizen and government is such that the citizen has a right to revolt if the government becomes overbearing or infringes upon the rights of the citizens. Guns are a means by which citizens can revolt and overthrow an oppressive government.

George Washington himself said "A free people ought not only to be armed and disciplined, but they should have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who might attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government." Thus, the 2nd Amendment's purpose was to keep guns in the hands of the people, so that tyranny and the federal government might be kept in check.

The current proposals of President Obama to put a ban on high capacity magazines and assault weapons will not help America's problems with gun violence. The main argument against high capacity magazines is *why does one need that much ammunition in one cartridge?* The answer: it is not the government's job to dictate to the people what the people need.

The people have certain unalienable rights. If the government took away all things the populace did not "need," it would have a sad life, indeed. How would reducing the bullets per magazine count help in any way? Mass-killers would just have to reload more often, a task that takes less than three seconds.

Banning assault rifles is also a foolish measure. Many people cite Sandy Hook as a reason for banning assault weapons, but Connecticut already had an assault weapons ban in place since 1993. Though the ban was present, the shooter's mother's guns were legal.

The point: all liberties need regulation, but guns are already well regulated. The real issue in the gun debate shouldn't be guns at all. It should be a debate about our culture of violence, and how the media glorifies these killings. All one can watch on *Fox News* or *CNN* for weeks afterward is coverage of a mass murder.

We should be looking for ways in which we can reform our psychological health policies to prevent unstable people from doing these awful deeds. Guns are not the problem. People who wield the guns, however, are.





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Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to the Bell Ringer office in the Lowry Building, the Faculty Advisors or the Editors, or sent to bellringer@montgomerybell.edu (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into the school email). These letters must be signed; The Bell Ringer neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

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Editorial

Department reshuffling presents opportunity for an overhaul

As the campus settles into a new normal and the pizza oven becomes old news (that day is coming, believe it or not), the spirit of improvement on this campus could easily wane. In terms of heavy lifting, this campus is going to be quiet for the first time in a while. The reshuffling of space following the exodus of the history department to the new building and the inauguration of the new dining facilities (and the new Panini press, the early MVP of the move) have opened up opportunities to expand from within. The arts and language departments have finally found some space to stretch out. That much is an improvement, but even that may not be enough. For two "non-SAT" subjects it might be justifiable to open the new space and classrooms and just move on, but this is an opportunity to cement the legacy of this spate of expansion as a boon for the entire community and prepare us for the global experience of the MBA of the future.

Two things that transcend parochial ignorance are art and language. A student that can create (be that musically or physically) can meet anyone in the world on equal footing. A bilingual person can be an even better ambassador, communicating fluently without respect to nationality. A push for an overhaul of these facilities would obviously help make the campus well rounded, but more importantly it would cement the international reputation of the school. Our collective quality as an institution can be

potent, but if we fail to communicate that on the world stage, what's it worth?

Clearly in the past, both of these departments have been blessed with resources, most notably the omnipresent Wilson Grants. The precedent for an investment on this scale in these departments is therefore well established. It's debatable that the largest ripples of the Wilson programs have really been felt yet. These positive international experiences made possible by the school and the Wilson family are bound to both breed successful men in the student body and invite donation of the spoils of that success. All of this is to say, the money the school puts into these programs now, especially at this critical juncture in its (and the world's) history will likely come back tenfold. Financing the overhaul would obviously be the critical question, but when the school can better prepare possible donors for a global economy with foreign cultural literacy, who could doubt the intelligence of the decision?

The crux of this new push may be moving this student body further and further away from the stereotype of the ugly American. Not that a second language and an understanding of art can fix our facial features or remove our accents – that much is here to stay. The best possible version of the school and the version that would be best presented on an international stage would be that which invests in the arts and languages now as a cornerstone for the future.

Letters to the Editor

As we become one of the premier private schools in the nation, we have begun to focus on how we represent ourselves. We have tried to distance our image from Southern traditions, even erasing some of the most basic symbols of Southern heritage, and instead present ourselves as an insulated academic institution. As a school, we have realized how these symbols can tarnish our reputation, but we have overlooked one of the most basic pieces of our image: our name.

Montgomery Bell, the namesake of the school, was a steel magnate who built his business on the back of slave labor. He was an extraordinarily vicious slave-owner, and was known for the ferocity with which he would hunt down runaways. Bell was also known for frequenting brothels, and often forced himself upon his own slaves. Bell was rumored to have over eighty children, even though he never married. His actions were so atrocious that other slave owners ostracized him because they thought he was too barbarous.

This information is unknown by both students and faculty alike, and while information about Ms. Lowry and Mr. Massey is prominently displayed on campus, information about Bell has been completely erased from the campus. I figured that maybe this information had been forgotten, but when I talked to administrators all of them knew about Bell's past.

The administrators told me that the only reason we keep Bell's name is because we don't want to violate the terms of Bell's endowment; an

endowment we've already violated multiple times. Bell's original charter dictated that MBA would be a school for underprivileged boys who can't afford to go to school, a stipulation we've clearly broken.

Even if we did violate Bell's charter it would only cost us three hundred thousand dollars, a sum that pales in comparison to the thirty million plus we spent on the new dining hall.

To be fair, Bell did renounce slavery later in life, but it hardly rectifies his previous actions. It's like a murderer repenting after he kills: while it may be a kind gesture, it doesn't exonerate him.

Bell also freed his slaves for all the wrong reasons. His family had been distant, and only started to show up when they realized they could increase their inheritance. Bell decided to give them the middle finger and send off a big part of their inheritance to Liberia.

Knowing this, we should change the name of the school to reflect the school's new image. The new name should oppose what Bell stood for, and, instead of setting up a competitive bidding process, we should name the school after someone who changed history for the better. We should represent the positive side of Southern heritage and name the school after a Southern agitator for human rights. A re-naming would help bring publicity to our school and bring us one step closer to becoming one of the premier private schools in the nation.

-Rahul Ramanna

Juniors in desperate attempt to recruit Cheef Keef for Prom, #Sosaprom2013

By Wells Hamilton
Live from China

Denney Lackey unfortunately failed to rally a two-time victory for the Great Geat, and he is looking forward to riding in the front seat of the limo. In preparations for the big dance, many juniors brainstormed creative ways of asking their dates. **Adam Biesman** prepared a brief, rhetorical speech outlining in five key areas the potential benefits of going to prom with him. RQ has given the speech a 9.8/10.

Luke Cochran on the other hand plans on spelling out "PROM?" with dead geese on his date's front lawn. For those old fashioned -romantics, **Ridley Wills** still embraces the classic approach of galloping into his date's front lawn--rose in his mouth--hurdling over various obstacles in his path.

Nowadays, it seems you can't go a day (much less an entire class period) without hearing at least twice about the college admissions process. We at *The Bell Ringer* share this solicitousness (SAT AHH!!!!!!!!!!!! AHHHHHH!!!) for COOOLLLLLLEEEGGGGEEEEEE, and so we would like to offer our pre-emptive predictions for what the future holds for the class of 2014's after its MBA career is finished.

Ben Yahnian, regardless of his new school, will wear so much vivid pastel colored clothing that he will blind many of the members of his fraternity. Harding Academy will send him numerous congratulatory letters on his unique style and colorful approach to life.

Davis Lovvorn will find himself out-Davis-Lovvorned at Duke, and will be forced to say the words he never would have



PIPE DREAM: Why won't you return our calls, Keef? Don't worry. We'll be patient.

imagined himself saying, "Let's change the subject from Duke basketball to something else."

Clark Hooks will serve as a short-tempered coach of a club lacrosse team that will go on to do club lacrosse things. **Tristan Chari** will be fined numerous times for tracking rice all over his dorm building, to which he will respond "My bad, dawg. My bad."

Braden "Braydo" Welborn and **Nick Trogden** will ask "who's comin'" with them (man) to college, and the answer may surprise you. **Brandon Carpenter** will find himself unable to take off his bow tie and thus gain automatic admission into the University of Virginia.

During his freshman year, **Tejas Reddy** may eventually merge his soul with

the spirit of Television, conversing with his classmates only in quotes from *The Wire*, *Breaking Bad*, and *The Walking Dead*. "If you come at the king, ya best not miss." But above all college activities the class of 2014 will do, one in particular stands out: business.

Ben Chen, a businessy businesser of business, swept the business competition with his impeccable knowledge of private jet interiors and silk ties. You know, business things. **Tarun Mallipeddi**, on the other hand, was tripped up by the "checking into five star hotels," part of the business competition.

The Bell Ringer wishes all of its entrepreneurs luck in whatever business they business into.

Freshmen should probably quit while they're not too far behind

By Werner Bradshaw
Staff Infection

As we approach the fourth quarter, many freshmen are ready to throw in the towel. Some, on the other hand, are still doing great things.

First off, congrats to **William Hall** for winning the freshman speech competition, and to everyone else who participated, especially **Andy Zhu** and his two guns.

As I am writing this, I can see that **Jack King**, **Brodie Poe**, and **Connor Downey** are all putting up pictures of themselves on Instagram. It is pretty unfortunate if you ask me. Because I'm writing this article before spring break, I don't know what this crew got themselves into, but I am very sure that **Connor** will have some awesome stories for all to hear, and all of them will be complete lies, as usual.

Speaking of **Connor**, the hockey team had great success this year, partly due to the play of freshmen **Jack Malone**, **Will Beasley**, and **Sam Smith**.

Also speaking of **Jack Malone**, his new car is pretty sweet- it has a duck sticker on the back and mud on the tires. The only problem is that it is not "lifted."

Now that spring sports are underway, the freshman class is ready to showcase their talent on the field.

Winston Hewitt, **Parker Bryan**, **Hunter Hamilton**, **Sam Rhodes**, **Joe Scowden**, and others look to dominate on the baseball field this spring for the JV baseball team while **Jackson Siktberg**, **John Kelly**, **Phelps Gambill**, **Brinton Hoover**, **Alec Vest**, **Charlie Bailey**, **George Lazenby**, and many more look to have a great season on the JV lacrosse team.

Several members of our class are showing out on varsity teams this season. Shout out to **Cole Cross** for baseball, **Will Emerson** and **Chase Meluch** for soccer, **David Wise**, **Taylor Asher**, and **Ben Graves** for lacrosse, and **Richard Baker** for tennis.

Again, because I'm writing pre-Spring Break, I can't say exactly what went down over the break. I would, however, like to offer a few base predictions:

Taylor Asher went skiing and it was so cold in his room because the heat broke that he had to spend the night in the utility closet. **Daniel Bishop** used his independent study break to the fullest. **Sam Smith** studied abroad, and **Winston Hewitt** stopped by to see **Sam** and said howdy. **Yavin Alwis** put the team on his back. I'm pretty confident in that last one. I'll go ahead and lock it in as a fact.

Don't throw in the towel quite yet, gents, not when we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. I mean, we only have, like, thirty-five more exams before we graduate...never mind. Let's pack it in.

Sophomores begin their Slide, read a lot of Proust

By Owen Powell
Staff-and-a-half

Spring Break 2013 seems to have been a good relaxing time to rage face. Similar to most years a large portion of the class made their way down to Florida while, following suit, **Andrew Porter** stayed in Nashville with pretty much no one except **David Bright**. Apparently **Chatham Dobbs** didn't feel like going fishing this break. (Moment of silence. Thanks.)

One student spent his spring break crediting that faculty member at MBA who played wide receiver in the NFL for his numerous accomplishments. No, not Coach Sanders, silly! Check the MBA Wikipedia page under the "Debate and forensics" section for a shocker. **Jay Thomas** has become an Instagram phenom over the break taking some truly spectacular pictures as he went serving in the Dominican Republic.

Zach Roberts and **Harrison Lien** enjoyed some horns - whatever that is. They were some of the sophomores that went to London. Dirty Davis Luster can't figure out his lady situation... too many options... so little time. **Mac Mackey** is there to help you along the way. **Joseph Downey** has been awarded Man of the Month by the Sophomore Class Committee for Excellence which is comprised of myself, **Owen Powell**, and



TRIUMPHANT RETURN: Matthias may not be a Sophomore, but he did make a comeback to campus, which trumps silly Soph pictures.

Cdr. Carr. Please see the Commander for your certificate.

William Richardson and that "girlfriend" of his have officially broken up. When asked why he broke up with her he simply replied, "Dude, we didn't break

up. What are you talking about?"

Oh well, I guess they haven't broken up. I think it's somewhere around eighty-eleven years they've been dating. They're going strong. This "girlfriend" of his is notably the lead singer for Nashville's own **W8less**. Her band has appeared twice at MBA: first at the best mixer in MBA history during freshman year, and second, a couple weeks back in assembly as their MTV music video was projected to the entire school. Speaking of this whole situation, I think it is time - that fratstar's time - as the fratstar has ended. What is more frat, dating a girl for three years or not dating a girl for three years? **Jay Thomas**, you have been promoted.

Someone in my chemistry class informed me that I had never given them a single shout out... I forgot who that was... maybe next time.

Sam Bellet loves first period. Like, he loves it. Also, no one can tell the **Barrick** twins apart still. **Si Deane** won an award for the greatest instagram ever, awarded by **George Hunt**.

Well that about does it, shout out to **Jess Darnell** for being the best actor in the 'ville. Keep up the good work and let's finish this year off. THIS IS THE FOURTH QUARTER THIS IS WHAT WE WORK FOR. FINISH. Roll Red Roll and always Chew Big Red Gum.

Seniors study hard, slide harder

By MacDaddy H

Senior Purveyor of Fine Playground Equipment

What is it now? Like fifty days till we graduate? It's got to be fewer than thirty days of class, or some number close to that. I'm not sure what I want you to take from that, but it still amazes me that after the years we've spent here on the Hill, the end is just a hop-skip away.

Anyways, the seniors have been doing some awesome stuff lately. **Alex Floyd** was named to the All-Star Cast at the SETC one act competition a few weeks back, and several other seniors thespians turned in some great performances as well. **Millton Hamwee** and **John Mellow** keep rolling in the debate world and nonchalantly present giant plates and trophies and plaques like it's nothing, and **Galen Bullington** had his first major art show. Oh and our resident poster boy, **Adam Bowman**, won science.

Slightly more impressive, given his track record, was when **Bowman** got two pop-culture references in one class. Yes, it's a glorious time for the class of 2013. Just about everyone has some success to boast these days, i.e. **Mattison Asher**, with his newly refurbished head of hair, got the girl at Smoothie King's number like it was nothing.

With the winter season in the books, I want to congratulate every senior athlete for all the hard work they put in and the results, but a special shout out goes to **Michael Piana**, whom **Tom Kaiser** has dubbed the next Chazz Michael Michaels. If you are unaware, Piana went off in the

state championship hockey game right before spring break, notching four goals and doubling the opposition's goal tally by himself.

On the good stuff. **Nick Green** turned 18 weeks back elatedly and declared via social media how pumped he was to have the legal right to destroy his mind, body, and soul with various practices prohibited to minors. **Reed Cothron** is psyched, and a little less sarcastically so, about writing, directing, and editing the thirty minute movie he's doing for the one acts. In news that's really not news to anyone, **Jack Wagster**, by his own report, pulls.

Presumably because he can't convince anyone to buy those sick "Roll Red" shades, **Christian Sargent** has been charged with treason and threatened with impeachment as class treasurer by Mr. Webb. In a preemptive strike, **Sargent** is calling any and all willing troops to join him in a coup d'état of the administration. Violent-rebellion style.

J. Carlton Smith fell in love while down in Oxford, MS, on a college visit. **Trip Adams**, after a long stint on crutches that was a result of a particularly nasty trampoline accident, is back on the track in lighting-fast form.

Will McFadden is having a terrible time in Diplomacy. In slightly related news, **Mattison Asher** is a dirty, lying, cheating, filthy piece of scum. **Will** exhorts, "Does honor mean nothing anymore?" **Hamwizzle Millwee** just comes and goes as he pleases in Anatomy, but **Penn Murfee** has yet to notice. Guys, come on. Ohohohooo.



SILLY CARROTS: Terence can't seem to put his hat on right! Silly Carrots!

Omegle has seen a recent resurgence in its popularity among the class of 2013. Unrelatedly, **Robert** (I said Raaaaaa-bert) **Papel** has been getting some weird pictures lately. Does anyone know a kid in our class with short, dark hair? If you do, please let **PapDaddy** know immediately.

Besides the condition of his inbox, **Paps** bemoans the future of the MBA crew team, as **Sam Turner's** little brother is now a coxswain (though apparently he's pretty good). **SlammyT** and **Patrick Moody** haven't had any more recent projects with Jake Simons' older brother recently. Word has it, though, that plans are in the works for the construction of a space ship.

Landon Bullock was greatly disappointed by the bro-tank selection at Target and Marshall's on his pre-spring break shopping trip. A few members of Mr. Lester's second period econ class, especially **Chris Briggs** and **Franklin Garstin**, are a little suspicious of that statue in the corner of his room. Something's definitely different about it.

After a few critical check points and a scary episode that required baked-potato therapy, the dark lord still approaches.

I can't help but feel we haven't done enough senior-type stuff yet. Yeah there's been some sliding and whatnot, but nothing special. The closest thing I've seen was **Nathan Fouts** and **Parrish Preston** turning the **Harry Potter-Hermione**



HELP ME: Mr. Smith had a rough day in the sun, it seems.

Granger cutout from the senior room into a kite. That was pretty sick.

And since we're totally not gonna do a senior prank, what's left? We can't play tennis with cicadas, and we have yet to even try to catch a squirrel. The list of not-yets goes on. We for sure need to pick up the slack.

In all seriousness, though, reflect on Mr. Webb's speech at the last class meeting. No matter what you do in your remaining time here, just remember that there's a lot of good you can and should get out of MBA, not just for yourself but for those around you. Senior antics aside, there are a lot of ways to make the best of however few days we have left as part of the Big Red.

In the slightly altered words of a carefully worded email sent to one of our comrades, seize these next months, gentlemen. Make them extraordinary.



I SAID RAAAAAA-BERT: Robert Papel and Robert Kelly: Separated at birth? The Bell Ringer will leave it to the people to decide.

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GUNNING FOR THE TOP: *The Shotgun club takes to their posts in an early trap practice*

COURTESY OF
COL. SHARBEL

Shotgun club explodes onto scene

By Nolan Spear
Staff Writer

Coaches Sharbel, Fettroll and Ardisson have fired up a shotgun team that has acquired much interest from around the Hill. The team, currently consisting of eight students, practices shooting regularly at the Nashville Gun Club and does their strength and conditioning workouts here at MBA. While at the NGC, the team not only practices shooting but shooting mechanics and position drills.

Each member of the team brings his own shotgun. Some members of the team include juniors Wilson Hayes, Blake Patton, Jonathon Barringer, and senior Sam Turner. Coach Sharbel, an admitted not-so-regular shotgun shooter, says the club emerged from the brain of Athletic Director Mr. Scott O'Neil, and many students showed interest. This idea and the student interest led to the creation of the group.

Finding targets has not been an

issue. The team shoots clay pigeons fired out and away and are graded on how many they hit in a set. In competition, one member of each team lines up in a line of five, and each takes a turn firing at a certain set of pigeons.

Tennessee, which is a leading scholastic shotgun-shooting state, actually houses many schools that have shotgun-shooting teams, and if this explosion of interest is any indication, MBA will fit right in.

The team will compete in American trap team competitions with other schools such as Hume-Fogg, BGA, Shelbyville, and Christian Brothers at different gun ranges around Middle Tennessee. The Montgomery Bell Academy Shotgun Club seems to be moving right along into becoming one of the more popular and hopefully successful competitive groups here on the Hill.

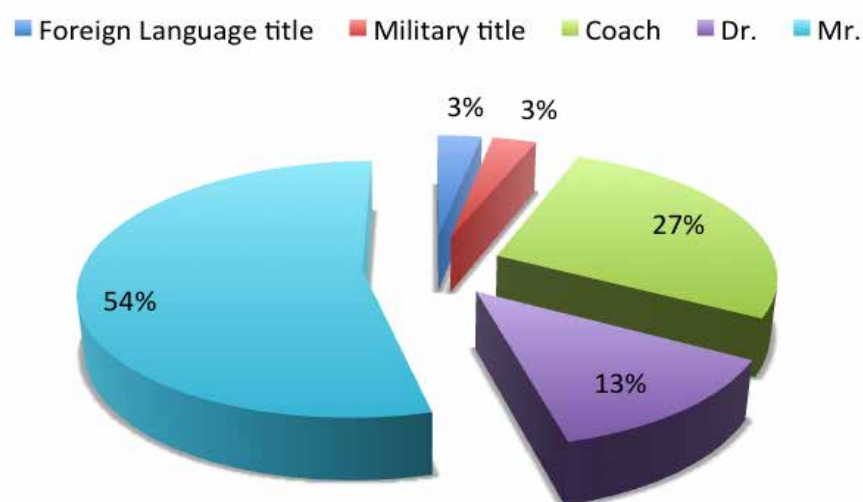
By the Numbers: Titles of Teachers

By Ian Scholer
Staff Writer

Here on the Hill, we have the privilege of learning from some of the most unique teachers, and now more than ever this motley squad take on different titles. The number of teachers addressed as the traditional "Mr." is dwindling, almost down to 50% of all male teachers. When you put that into perspective, it means that almost half of the male teachers have taken on new titles to suit their foreign language, position at the school, PhD, and other categories. For many of the teachers here, the title has become part of their identity and part of what makes them so unique. If you mention "Mr. Carr" in a conversation, people will most likely look at you confused, then ask if you mean "Commander Carr," his Navy title. While not in active service, Cdr. Carr fittingly retains his military title as a teacher today. It just seems right that one of

the most disciplinary teachers in the school is addressed as a military commander. Cdr. Carr explains that in his second year teaching, his students decided to call him by his military title, because that is what fits him.

Of course, there are some teachers who have chosen to drop their military title. Mr. Gaither, for example, was a bomber pilot in Vietnam. He could very easily be called Cpt. Gaither, or Coach Gaither for all his years of coaching wrestling and track. He has decided to drop his titles when he stopped performing his military and coaching duties and move on to his next phase of life. In Coach Lanier's case, however, it would be very difficult to call the man who gave many years of his life to and still proudly wears the jacket of MBA Soccer every day anything other than "Coach." Below is a pie chart of the various titles of male faculty and staff at MBA.



History by the book

The *Bell Ringer* in Ridley Wills' *Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete*.

By Aaron Kaplan
Staff Writer

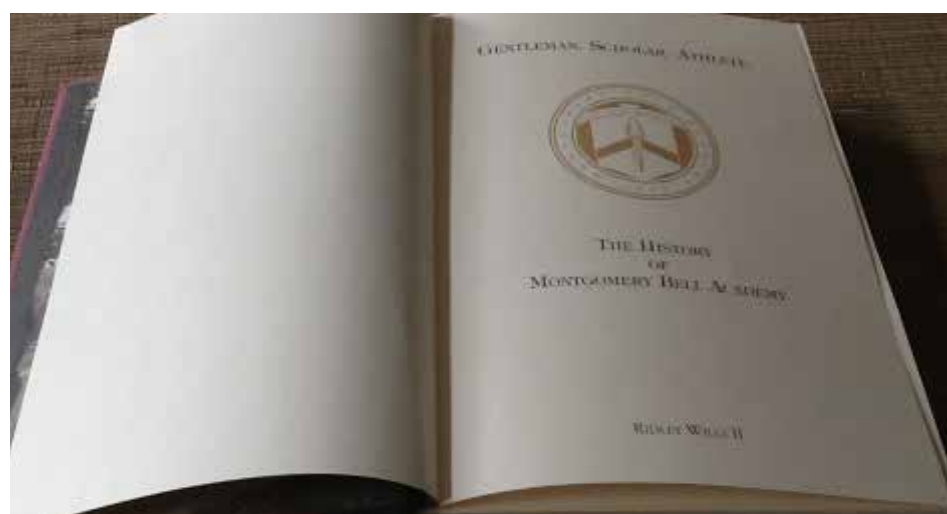
Every issue, the *Bell Ringer* staff strives to bring you, the students, faculty and friends of MBA, the most accurate form of news from the Hill. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the *Bell Ringer*, and it is at this time that we'll take a look back at "the *Bell Ringer* through the years" as depicted in Ridley Wills II's *Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete*.

The *Bell Ringer* is the first and practically only student newspaper in MBA's history. In October of 1943, the first issue of the *M.B.A. News* was released. That school year, the *M.B.A. News* was edited by a son of an MBA trustee, but did not survive with that title for long.

In October of 1944, the *Bell Ringer* was first put into circulation. It followed the *M.B.A. News* as MBA's student-run publication and released nine issues total throughout the 1944-45 school year. The first editor-in-chief of the official *Bell Ringer* was a student by the name of Nelson Andrews. The naming of the yearbook *The Bell* in its second year helped to establish the advent of long-lasting student publications.

As it does now, the *Bell Ringer* served as a voice for student opinion. Gus Kuhn III, an active participant in student publications, discussed the presence of the arts at MBA in the March 1968 issue of the *Bell Ringer*. Although MBA had an art course and a chorus, "Kuhn argued that it was ironic that a school as academically superior as MBA should remain so culturally inferior." Advocating art education, Kuhn expressed that no one "can truly claim a full education without some knowledge of the history of art, such as the French Impressionist Movement; nor can he be adequately cultured without at least some appreciation for classical music, for instance Bach or Tchaikovsky." On the Hill today, cultural life is much more significant than at the time of Kuhn's article in 1968, with Jazz Band, Chorus, Studio Art, Orchestra and a multitude of other artistic opportunities.

Another example of unrestrained opinion appears in the March 1972 issue of the *Bell Ringer*, which posed the question: "Can You Beat the Draft?" The "draft" referred to the Vietnam War draft. The article discussed the conscientious objector status, medical excuses, jail time, and Canada as options for avoiding the draft. A writer discussed the option of



WHAT A SWELL PAPER: *The humble origins of the Bell Ringer in Mr. Wills' book*

AARON KAPLAN/BR

ROTC. Mr. Wills makes the interesting observation that "MBA alumni have a long, proud tradition of service in the United States armed forces, but the school was not immune to concerns over America's involvement in Vietnam." It is apparent that the *Bell Ringer*, as it is now, was a vent for student opinions of all sorts - both formally acceptable and questionable.

An issue in 1970 featured a student-strike joke, a 1981 issue featured a letter-to-the-editor insulting the

headmaster, and a 1982 issue featured a candid student-perspective on "poor college placement performance."

The *Bell Ringer* today has evolved immensely from its beginnings, tackling new, current topics, but it still values student opinion as its driving force. Freedom of press is a privilege students at MBA have not hesitated to take advantage of for many years.

**GENTLEMAN, SCHOLAR, ATHLETE IS AVAILABLE
IN THE LIBRARY.**

By Andrew Scott
Staff Writer

From 2000 on, Big Red football has produced some of the most successful teams in MBA history. With state titles and a number of different accolades to claim, this decade had some fantastic football players who not only had outstanding statistical seasons but were also leaders among their teammates. So without further ado, here is our best attempt to assemble the best team from the past decade of football:

THE ALL-D

WR: William Tanner- Although the Big Red hasn't had many big play wide receivers, Tanner was one of the best from a statistical point of view. From 2008 to 2009, he caught 104 passes for 1323 yards and 15 touchdowns. Looking back in the stat book, his 2008 season was the best any wide receiver has ever had at MBA, as he caught 63 passes for 851 yards and 10 touchdowns, a fantastic season for any wide receiver.

OL: Andrew Wilson- A standout center for the Big Red, Andrew Wilson was a key cog in the offensive lines for the 2001 and 2002 teams. He blocked for great runners like Michael Koban and helped the 2001 team, led by Ingle Martin, to a huge state championship. Wilson went on to play for Princeton.

OL: Kevin Carr- Being a big offensive lineman, Kevin Carr could often be seen opening huge holes for Fitz Lassing and Tyler Franks during the 2009 season. Carr regularly utilized his size to win battles out on the edge at tackle as he would dominate opponents from snap to whistle. After his career at MBA, Kevin walked-on to the football team at Notre Dame and still plays today for Brian Kelly.

TE: Tom Santi- As one of the few draftees from MBA, it's hard to keep Tom Santi off the list. He was one of Michael Fisher's favorite targets in 2003 catching 37 passes for 337 and three touchdowns during one of MBA's best seasons. After his high school career, Santi continued on to Virginia and later to the NFL.

DL: Ben Daniel- With all of the great talent from the 2005 defensive line, Daniel was one of the most consistent for the Big Red. Racking up 44 tackles, 10.5 tackles for loss, and nine sacks, Ben was a consistent and significant contributor to the MBA defense and will be remembered as one of the best linemen for the Big Red.

DL: Matt Bubis- Coming from the inside of the line, Matt Bubis was a dominant lineman for MBA. During both his junior and senior seasons, Bubis accumulated more than 80 tackles, 15 tackles for loss, and 10 sacks. His stats alone are telling of a playmaker at defensive tackle as he racked up some of the most impressive stats of any defensive lineman for MBA.

LB: Ben Bartholomew- Even though most remember Bartholomew for his hard blocking at fullback, his presence at linebacker was equally felt during the 2006 and 2007 seasons. Over the course of his junior and senior seasons, he racked up 83 tackles, nine tackles for loss, and two sacks. After an impressive run at MBA, Bartholomew now plays fullback at the University of Tennessee.

LB: Moses Osemwegie- "three-peat" champion ball and bone crushing tackler. Often playing through his injuries, the Big Red's success on the field. Moses' coaches often said he was different from other tacklers. He played linebacker for the Varsity team and won MVP honors in 2004 and 2005.

RB: Fitz Lassing- 2009 was a wild season to say the least. After countless injuries to key starters, Fitz took on a much larger role in the offense and did just that. Taking the team all the way to the state finals, he racked up 1417 yards on the ground and scored 17 touchdowns while catching 16 passes for 212 yards and 3 touchdowns. Lassing also racked up 92 tackles on defense from linebacker to lead the defense in tackles.

QB: Ingle Martin- Needless to say, this could've been one of the easier choices for the All-Decade team. As a junior, Martin completed 97 out of 140 passes for 1,450 and 14 touchdowns. He even took on a larger role in the offense during his senior season as he completed 62 of 137 passes for 964 yards and seven touchdowns while also rushing for 935 yards. He went 6 for 9 when attempting field goals, making a school record 56-yard field goal. From his sophomore to senior year, Martin won three consecutive state titles amid a 32 game-winning streak and helped MBA to two top 25 rankings in the final 1999 and 2000 USA Today polls.

DB: Reggie Ford- As a part of one of the best teams MBA has ever seen, Reggie Ford was a major contributor to the 2007 and 2008 defenses. Reggie played exclusively in the secondary for the Big Red and quickly became a force as a junior breaking up ten passes and making over 20 tackles. In his senior year, he was the staple for the defense. Opposing offenses threw away from Reggie. He ended up with four interceptions and five passes broken up along with a few key forced fumbles.

K/P: Bryant Hahnfeldt- Undoubtedly Hahnfeldt is one of the most storied kickers in MBA football history. He had an illustrious career on the Hill as he went 16 for 24 during his senior season, helping both the 2003 and the 2004 teams to state titles. Bryant also punted during his senior year as he averaged more than 37 yards per attempt with 18 touchbacks to give the Big Red an edge in special teams. After MBA, he went on to kick for Vanderbilt.

FS: Nathan Wade- A true playmaker for the Big Red secondary, Wade made countless plays during the 2007 championship season. With big plays during key moments, Nathan had 39 tackles, intercepted six passes, and broke up seven passes. After MBA, he went on to Furman where he started as a freshman and had a fantastic career.

ECADE TEAM

RB: E.J. Vinsang- Throughout the 2007 state championship season, E.J. Vinsang was the star of the Big Red offense, rushing for nearly 1400 yards and 15 touchdowns as he churned out game-changing plays throughout the course of the season. Part of a dynamic backfield with Christian Waddey (1033 yards, nine TDs) and Ben Bartholomew (500 yards, three TDs at FB), Vinsang was the leader of the three as he became a huge difference maker for MBA in his senior season. After MBA, he went on to play at Sewanee for Robert Black.

QB: Michael Fisher- Normally a football team is blessed to have a talented quarterback like Ingle Martin. But right after Martin left for the University of Florida, Michael Fisher stepped out of Martin's own shadow over the position. He created his own legacy in Big Red football as he led the team to two state titles while garnering the Blue Cross Bowl MVP both times. In his senior year, Fisher threw for 2000 yards and 14 touchdowns while maintaining a 60.7 completion percentage. He averaged 180 yards passing per game and only threw four interceptions.

OL: Wade Longmire- Playing both guard positions and center, Wade Longmire was a stalwart lineman for the Big Red as he started the entire 2008 season. Even though the rushing attack wasn't very potent, the interior of the line helped the passing game to carry the offense throughout the season, keeping Spencer Wise upright as he threw for over 1500 yards.

OL: Joseph Birdsong- This outstanding lineman had a huge part in MBA's success during the early to mid-2000's as he blocked for great runners and protected Michael Fisher's blindside. Birdsong was so skilled, he ended up signing with Wake Forest after MBA and started for two years at left tackle.

OL: Wesley Johnson- One of the best and most successful offensive linemen to come out of MBA, Wesley Johnson was an anchor for the Big Red in the last two years of his high school career playing tackle and paving the way for countless 1000-yard rushers. After MBA he ended up signing with Vanderbilt and is currently starting at left tackle for the Commodores.

WR: Brad French- During a fantastic 2003 season, a trio passing attack of Michael Fisher, Tom Santi, and Brad French made offensive history at MBA with over 2000 yards passing on their way to an exciting to state championship against Brentwood Academy. In that season, French had 33 receptions for 697 yards and five touchdowns to go along with an unforgettable season.

DL: Clay Haury- As a part of the 2003 and 2004 state championship teams, Haury played a huge role along the defensive line for the Big Red. In his final season on the Hill, Clay racked up 44 tackles, 5.5 tackles for loss, and six sacks to finish off a fantastic career for MBA.

DL: Scott Bubis- The younger of the Bubis brothers, Scott had a fantastic 2007 season as he led the defensive line in tackles for loss with 10.5. Playing with a mean streak, Bubis was a real problem in the middle for opposing offensive lines as he regularly broke up running plays and stuffed quarterbacks in the backfield.

LB: Alfonza Knight- As the leader for the 2007 defense, Knight had an illustrious campaign racking up 58 tackles, 10.5 tackles for loss, and five passes broken up. He went on to play at Sewanee, where he played linebacker for four years under former MBA football coach Robert Black.

DB: Jed Crumbo- Although the offense is remembered as the focal point of the 2003 state title team, the defense held its own and Crumbo was a big part of that. During his senior year, Jed made over 30 tackles, four interceptions, and 11 passes broken up. He was a true ball hawk for the Big Red defense and held his own in the back end.

SS: Joe Riegle- It's hard to remember a better safety than Joe Riegle. After starting for two straight seasons, Riegle amassed 147 tackles, 10 tackles for loss and 12 pass-breakups to go along with two interceptions. He was the second leading tackler his junior season only to lead the team the next year. Joe was always a leader for the defense and the rest of team, winning countless team awards for his dedication to the team.

Honorable Mention:
Dominique Morris-CB
Charlie Morgan- LB
Andy Snyder- RB
Blake Goodman- RB
Zach Wall- LB
Michael Swett- DL
Brad Bars- DL
Jas Rader- DB
Christian Waddey- RB
Andrew Harris- WR
Spencer Wise- QB
Tyler Franks- RB
Connor Caldwell- DL
Andrew Fletcher- K/P
Michael Koban- RB

Basketball flips mediocre season into state

>> BASKETBALL, 14

with a lot more confidence, and that helped us play better basketball as a team.”

Helping the team was strong senior leadership and the reduction of turnovers, which plagued the Big Red in the early season slide.

During the impressive winning streak, the Big Red managed to win many close games, which they could not seem to pull out at the beginning of the season.

Kaiser commented, “We lost three games by two or less early on in the season in part because we were inexperienced in end of game situations. Once we figured out how to win close games, we got on a roll

and our last three wins of the season were all really close games.” Close wins included the buzzer beater win vs. BA, a four-point win against McCallie and a two-point win against BGA.

The Big Red continued their

never really close.

Concerning the state tournament, Kaiser said that “we were obviously disappointed with the Ensworth game and wish we could have played better, but a state semifinal appearance is something to

Kaiser analyzed, “They have a good amount of basketball skill and are pretty experienced. If they work hard in the offseason, they have a chance to be really good.”

The Big Red seniors leave a legacy of reviving a dying season to make a great run at the state tournament.

Kaiser reflected that he would really miss

“the camaraderie among teammates. I’ve really enjoyed the last couple of years on the hardwood and am proud to have worn that red jersey.”

“Once we figured out how to win close games, we got on a roll.”

success in the state tournament, beating BA in overtime in the first round and beating MUS on the road by two points.

These two wins led up to the much-hyped matchup against Ensworth in Lipscomb’s Allen Arena for the semifinals. However, Ensworth won in a game that was

be proud of.”

Although the Big Red will lose much senior firepower next year, next year’s team looks like a contender, with juniors Duncan Smith, Vinny Gaglione, Elliott Morrissey, and Alex Bars looking to provide leadership.

2013 athletes ink their letters of intent

By Jody Gorham
Staff Writer

Recently nine MBA seniors signed with college programs to continue their athletic careers. These eight consisted of three football players, two lacrosse players, two soccer players, a baseball player and a tennis player.

In football, Morris Eguakun signed with Stetson in Florida as a defensive end. JeTarii Donald and Brooks Best signed with Mercer to play running back and wide receiver respectively. Each of these players made major contributions to the team this year and looks to compete for a spot freshman year with two relatively new football programs.

In lacrosse, Frank Vest will be attending Hanover. Frank has been a major contributor to the lacrosse team at MBA the past few years and looks to bring his energetic style of play to a solid Hanover team. Conner Griffin signed to play lacrosse at Furman, which will compete in Division I lacrosse starting in 2014. Conner, along with Frank, is one of the best all-around players on the team and now has a chance



to play Division I lacrosse next year.

In soccer, Chris Duffey will continue his athletic career at Birmingham Southern, where he looks to compete for a starting spot in the midfield. Trey Gill signed with South Carolina and will make an early impact at forward. Chris has been an integral part of the MBA soccer teams for the past few years and Trey has played a pivotal role on the varsity team since the 8th grade.

In baseball, Dallas Gibson signed with Brescia. Although this is his first year on varsity, Dallas has had a quality



start to the year hitting sixth in the lineup and winning the job at third base. He has also made some key pitching appearances in just the first few weeks of the season. Penn Murfee, the starting shortstop for MBA, signed to play with Vanderbilt a few months ago as well.

In tennis, Andrew Graham signed with Wofford, a Division I program playing in the Southern Conference. Andrew has been a major contributor to the team and will play as MBA’s number two this year. Aaron Jumonville, MBA’s number one on the tennis team, signed a while back to play



at MTSU.

All these athletes have a promising future ahead of them, and there may be a few more added to the list. The basketball and baseball teams have a few students that are looking to continue their athletic careers. Kamani Hodges (basketball) has not yet signed and Jack Rhodes (baseball) also has plans to continue playing in college. These athletes would finish off an already solid group of signees for the class of 2013.



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SPECIAL EVENTS

Frozen and over

A recap of the lockout: winners and losers

By Armand Jhala
Staff Writer

Smashville. Hockey-Tonk USA. "I like, I love it, I want some more of it." These are just a few phrases that we NHL fans didn't hear for a months. Fear not, ye lovers of hockey, for the NHL lockout officially came to a close in January of this year.

But now, although the league is back in session and the fans are attending games again, what exactly did the NHL lockout deal accomplish? According to ESPN, the majority of fans did not know what the lockout deal actually entailed. So let me try to break it down for you.

Major Points of the Deal

This new agreement will be valid for another 10 years, but there is an opt-out option after 8 years (unfortunately...).

Gary Bettman, the commissioner of the NHL, managed to persuade the NHL Players Association (NHLPA) to agree to a half and half revenue split. Players are still allowed to sign contracts for up to eight years, or seven if they are signing with a new team. (This prevents the ridiculous decade long contracts *cough cough* Ilya Kovalchuck *cough cough*.)

Now there is also a built-in

variance of 35% between how much a player is paid at the beginning of his contract and at the end of it. This idea prevents teams from front-loading contracts. Also, no one year of the contract can be less than 50% of the highest-paying year.

The cap and floor ended up moving in the direction that the owners wanted. The cap for the new season will be at \$64 million while the floor will sit at \$44 million. The cap is subject to variation, especially in a shortened season such as this one. Although this is a bit technical, it's still imperative to know.

The deal gives the league some leeway on punishments as well. It allows them to more effectively punish teams that decide to front-load their contracts. Honestly, this is the most confusing part of the deal, and it really does not make much sense. Just know that the league gets a bit more power!

Winners of the Deal

-The League as a whole. Commissioner Bettman and the rest of the league finally got that 50-50 split that they have wanted for so long. The players' share was originally 57% but now it is down to 50%, which cuts the average team's expenses by nearly \$8 million. The league also agreed to increase the money set aside for revenue

sharing. Owners get what they want, and the teams and players get what they want also. (Everyone is still making millions.)

-The minority of fans (sort of). We finally get hockey back. There really isn't a perfect system out there currently, but the success of the negotiations shows a compromise.

-Small-market and Big-market teams. Small-market teams have usually been at a disadvantage in the NHL. The decrease in a salary cap will definitely allow these smaller teams to make larger profit, which might level some of the playing field; however, the same can be said for the big-market teams, who will just make more money.

-The Players (sort of). They get to play hockey again. Many of the players spoke out during the lockout and called it utterly useless. These players just wanted to get back to playing the game they loved.

Losers of the Deal

-The majority of fans. Through everything that has happened, the fans are the ones that have suffered the most. After coming off one of the most interesting playoffs in years, the hockey season was anxiously awaited coming into October. After all of the hype and anticipation, we got no hockey. Now we only get to watch 48 games....48!?!? The playoffs,

nevertheless, should definitely bring about some surprises again.

-The Players. The players actually lost 40% of their wages this season. Although there had to be a cut in order for the lockout to end, it hammered the players pretty hard.

-Gary Bettman. Let's be real...He is going to get most of the blame for not getting the deal done sooner.

-The KHL! They were supposed to have an all-star lineup because many of the NHL players shifted over. Some of the big names included Evgeni Malkin, Ilya Kovalchuck, Pavel Datsyuk, and Alexander Ovechkin. Sounds like an NHL All-Star game! Unfortunately, the lockout ended and all these players came back to the states. Sorry, Russia!

I would call the NHL lockout a fundamental breakdown of the system, but we also have to take into account both sides of the spectrum. These people are making a living off of the sport. Is it a bit ridiculous to argue for a couple extra million dollars? Yes. As long as there are players and owners, however, there will be lockouts. Let's just hope the next time it happens, for whatever sport, a compromise is easier to come to.



HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL | *SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW*

GO WITH THE FLOW: *LACROSSE*

By Andrew Karpos
Sports Editor

The varsity lacrosse team expects a promising season after losing in the semifinals of state to MUS last year. Despite the level of lacrosse in general improving around the state and the challenges that the Big Red will face, this year's squad is confident in their ability to compete for a state title. In terms of expectations, Head Coach John Harvey explains, "Our goal is to be a much better team in May than we are in March, and come into the State Tournament confident and playing our best lacrosse."

This year's team is filled with lots of talent and skill, but a few players will have to settle into their positions and develop throughout the season if the team is to be successful. Coach Harvey believes that the strengths of this year's group include "overall speed and athleticism," while some points of weakness "lie in the team's limited experience and new faces playing new roles this year."

The obvious source of leadership for the lacrosse program this year will be seniors and returning starters such as Conner Griffin, Frank Vest, Jackson Flora, and Jack Benton. Although other seniors besides those mentioned will also contribute, Coach



MY CLIQUE: *The lacrosse seniors are a strong group that have definite championship aspirations.*

Harvey believes that much of the load will fall onto the shoulders of juniors, saying, "We really need juniors to start stepping up and leading as well. The more they mature as players this season, the better we will be in the end."

The road to a State Title will be fraught with difficulty because of the number of high-level teams in the league. Some of the best teams this year include the always-strong programs of MUS and McCallie. Other tough games will include

those against Ravenwood, Ensworth, Brentwood, and Christian Brothers High School.

The early season game against Ensworth was a big test for the team. Coach Harvey noted that this "game is a big emotional test, and we need it for state seeding at the end of the year." In this game, which took place on March 13th, the Big Red defeated Ensworth 11-5. This result bodes well for the progress of the team, and clearly demonstrates that Ensworth's lacrosse program is still far behind that of MBA in terms of skill, execution and talent. Because of the level of competition around the league, it seems as if every game will be a large test. Coach Harvey reflects, "We really do not have any games this year that will not deserve this team's full attention, and that is what makes it so fun."

It's a long season before the lacrosse State Championship takes place in May, but everyone in and around the program is confident that this team will develop into a top contender by the end of the year. After making it to the semis or finals of the state tournament the last few seasons, it appears that this year's team is confident in their ability to go all the way and take home a State Championship.

RUN AND GUN: *TRACK AND FIELD*

By McLean Hudson
News Editor

Late last May, the MBA Track and Field Team came up just short for the second year in a row to rival Brentwood Academy. The team enters this season with a bitter taste in its mouth and every intention of putting away the Eagles and bringing home the hardware.

After losing a class that featured one Gatorade Runner of the Year in Daniel Peters and two school record-setters, Will Narramore in the triple jump and Bryan Oslin in the decathlon, the latter toppling one of the longest standing-records in MBA sports (on a gimpy ankle), it is hard to imagine this year's team could find the talent to make another run late in the season.

Even so, neither the coaches nor the athletes are particularly worried about the team's capacity for success. Though led by a strong crop of seniors that features 110 hurdler/decatathlete Furman Haynes and distance studs Clint Smith and Madison Rieke, an excellent group of underclassmen will greatly bolster the team down the stretch.

In fact, the Big Red boasts at least one athlete in every event that can challenge the best from any school. Headliners include juniors Ryan Carr (pole vault), Travonte Easley (200 and 400), Jashon Robertson (discus), and sophomores Owen Powell (110 hurdles, decathlon), Will Pearson (300 hurdles), and Michael Lacey (100 and 200).

One strength for the MBA Track and Field Team is the relays. A host of

runners could contribute to what will certainly be a successful 4x400, and the team of Clint Smith, Madison Rieke, George Swenson, and Will Pearson has its sights set on a school record in the 4x800.

A serious concern, though, is the lack of depth in the 4x100 and 4x200 relays. Because several of last year's relay members are no longer running track, a few athletes, such as Tony Drew and Owen Powell, will have to step up throughout the season. There is a chance coaches could reach out to athletes in other spring sports to help with these relays.

The track season sees a number of big meets, such as the Doug Hall Relays and the Highland Games, sprinkled in with dual meets before the post season championship meets. Head coach Robert Pruitt is not

too worried about the busy schedule that often interferes with early and mid-season training: "It is nice to win [along the way]" he concedes, "but we train through the season until we get to competitions that matter," alluding to the city, regional, and state championships.

His strategy works well enough, seeing as the Big Red has won the city championship thirteen out of the last fifteen years. The team finds almost as much success in the regional meet, where they are currently the defending champions. Said Owen Powell, "Obviously we'd like to move past regions this year. It's nice to win, but the goal is always the state title."

With the across the board talent the team boasts, that goal does not seem to be at all out of reach.

ON THE BASELINE: *TENNIS*

By Anthony Swenson
Asst. Sports Editor

The MBA Varsity Tennis team has high hopes to four-peat as State Champions. With Head Coach Boysen and Coach Williams, the squad feels confident that they could have a dominant season through hard work and motivation. Coach Boysen has won two State Championships in his two years at MBA, and his coaching will help to make the players even better.

In addition to winning another State Championship, the team's goal is to win at least one of the outside tournaments, including the Rotary Tournament in Chattanooga or the DecoTurf National High School Tournament, tournaments which in recent years the team has finished second and sixth, respectively. The team's final goal is to make certain that each player on the team is a better tennis version of himself by the end of the season.

The experienced team has nine

returning players, including Seniors Andrew Karpos, Andrew Graham, Aaron Jumonville, Mark Lowe, and Will McFadden. Their experience will definitely help lead the team closer to a state title. The upcoming 2014 MBA Tennis team will have very little match experience due to the five graduating Seniors, but Coach Boysen is confident that the program has "the right administration, coaching staff, young players, and facility to ensure a great and successful tennis program at MBA for

many, many years."

The team's biggest competition this season will be MUS, Baylor, and McCallie. The squad will face rivals St. Xavier (Louisville, KY) and McCallie in duel matches. Coach Boysen compares the matches with Baylor to those at the collegiate level.

With chances of a terrific season, MBA Varsity Tennis hopes to four-peat as State Champions. Experience, hard work, and match-toughness will separate the team from its competitors.

SCORE AND DESTROY: SOCCER

By McKay Proctor
Staff Tactician

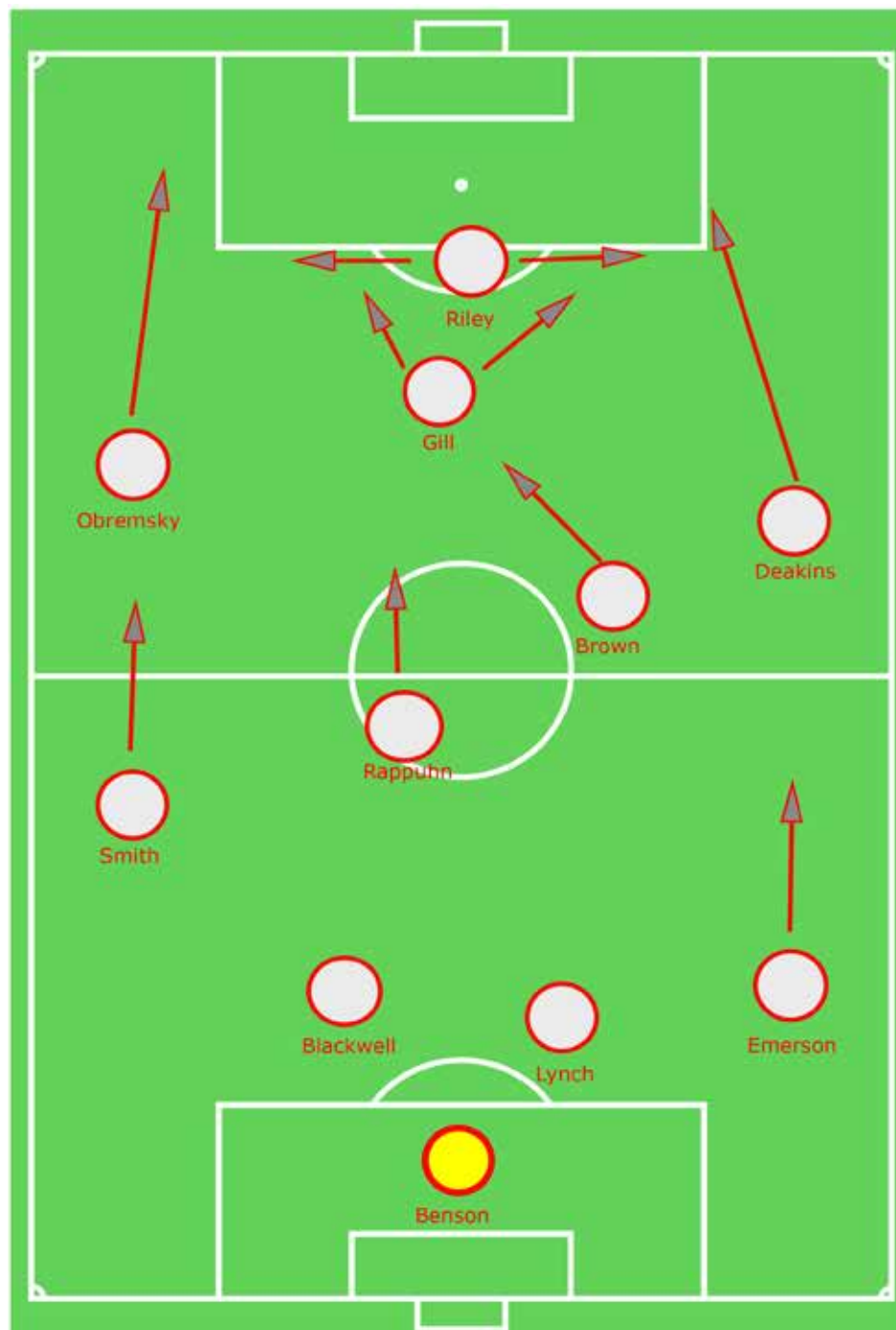
This team should seem familiar. Its backbone has been around the soccer program since Hayden Deakins and Trey Gill came into the team. Henry Lynch and Jonah Rappuhn closely followed with even more of today's side getting significant minutes as substitutes. In the end (though end is a bit too terminal a word) this iteration of the Big Red Side may have reached its fully evolved form. The loss of set piece wizard and master of the over-the-top through ball Chris Meluch seems for this side a necessary step in its growth. Meluch is the only major loss in the transition into the rule of the Class of 2013, which should prove grand if all goes as planned.

Meluch was a special player, with skills in possession and composure that influenced the pace of the game, but the midfield of this year's team remains its greatest strength. Meluch's old midfield partner Jonah Rappuhn ('14) will take over his position as a deep-set playmaker. He shares Meluch's talent for holding the ball under pressure, but he comes about it more through his broad shoulders than Meluch's patience and balance. Look for Jonah to play mainly within the midfield circle on attack and in front of the back line in defense, with his innate tactical understanding and touch allowing him to pull the strings from afar. The wingers in Coach Cheever's 4-4-2 are veteran Hayden Deakins, a fixture on the line-up card for the last four years, and Nick Obremsky. Deakins uses serious speed and determination in both attack and defense – his back tracking is the most dogged in the side, and usually involves a slide tackle of dubious legality. Obremsky's high work rate manifests itself in less violence, but playing more central. Both are aggressive in attack, often making incisive runs to stretch opposing back lines and punish overlapping fullbacks.

Jonah's partner in the midfield could depend on the tactical approach on a game-by-game basis, but one option is Louis Brown – a perfect foil for Rappuhn. Louis spent a good bit of time last year at the wide positions, and showed a clear understanding of timing and space that would be perfect in a more attacking midfielder. His combination play last year (especially quick passes with Marcus Riley in hold-up play) was the strength of his game and he should find himself playing alongside Jonah, if a bit father forward.

The back line will be a fusion of styles that should yield a gritty and resourceful result. Newly minted center half Ross Blackwell will partner with stalwart Henry Lynch at the heart of the back four. Ross brings a midfielder's technique and pace to balance Henry's strength and tactical awareness. This pairing should prove ideal, as if (uncharacteristically) Henry is out of position, Ross has the pace to cover, and in the opposite situation, Henry will read the situation and rabidly close any lanes Ross has left behind.

The fullbacks, on the other hand, are more explosive than pragmatic (in a good way). The most enjoyable player to watch in the side these last two years has been Sam Smith, a fire hydrant of a left back with quick, chopping feet and a world-class



FORM IS TEMPORARY: The Big Red are shown above in a sweeping counter. Marcus Riley holds up at the edge of the 18 yard box, Trey Gill is poised to make runs off him or spray passes to the wings. Wings Hayden Deakins and Nick Obremsky attack hard down the flanks. The back line has Sam Smith pushing almost even with the central midfield and Jack Emerson holding back a bit. The shape is a makeshift 4-2-3-1.

center of gravity. His diminutive height and combative style of play make him both a great wingback and invisible to any referee. The uncalled fouls he amasses (and the frustrated wide forwards that suffer them) are easily the best of the team's simple pleasures. His rapid transitions from defense to overlapping attack also make him a fifth midfielder blitzing down the side.

On the other side of the field will be Jack Emerson. Jack is the missing link between the shin-splitting, charging play of his older brother Ford and the light elegance of his younger brother Will (also in the side). He is less aggressive in attack than Sam Smith on the other side, but he will probe the right side of the defense with a similar tenacity if the opportunity arises.

In goal, the Big Red have a stable of capable custodians. Drew Benson puts athleticism and reflexes to great use in his time. His primary competition comes in the form of the lengthy, oft-injured senior Jake Simons. Both are more than enough to mop up after the defense, but Benson will probably play more often with Jake's history of injury. Should both be healthy and in form at the same time, Coach Cheever would have a tough decision with no wrong answer.

Options abound at forward, where the key ingredient in the team's style of play will be Marcus Riley. Marcus is at his best in hold up play, allowing runs from the midfield, wings and his fellow forward (last season it would be Chris Briggs). That allows tremendous flexibility in the second striker, who can play in a withdrawn position with plenty of space to make runs off Marcus. Along with the mercurial Briggs, wunderkind Andrew Conwell can also flourish here. Both are more technical and less physical than Riley. The withdrawn position means Riley does all of the battling with center backs so that they can run into space and finish. He probably will not get the glory for those goals, but in doing the dirty work, Marcus Riley made them happen.

That withdrawn striker position is perfect for the team's brilliant utility man, Trey Gill. His career is defined by his extraordinarily balanced abilities. At any point in his time with the soccer program, Trey has been called on to play everything but 'keeper. The South Carolina commit will likely determine the character of the team more than any other cog. In spurts, Trey is brilliant, delivering a marvelous combination of power and finesse from

anywhere on the field. The only complaint is his tendency to check out when he could be controlling the game. That said, even his lackadaisical efforts can be breathtaking, but in order for this side to reach its (dare I say) championship potential, Trey needs to be present and dogged. He has earned the captaincy (along with Henry Lynch and Hayden Deakins) but he needs to assert himself more often to take the team to its ceiling.

Coach Cheever's take on the 4-4-2 is true to its shape in defense, with the wings both tracking back hard and the forwards dropping in to defend. On the counter, though, something interesting happens. The wings drive vertically, stopping about even with the withdrawn forward (in this case the talented Mr. Gill). The central midfielders stay back of that line dropping in passes and occasionally venturing further forward. Of the two, Jonah is more prone to screen first for the back line.

The resulting shape is not the stodgy 4-4-2, but a streamlined, potent 4-2-3-1 (pictured to the left). The switch between the two is rapid and also takes the best from both forms – the 4-4-2's defensive stability and the 4-2-3-1's attacking balance and spacing. The 4-2-3-1 and its cousin forms of the 4-3-3 are all very *en vogue* in international tactics. The 4-4-2 is more spatially redundant (i.e. more players in the same space), which is perfect for defending. The 4-2-3-1 removes those redundancies, evenly divides the field and gives a clear structure for a counterattack.

At press time, the Big Red are undefeated, with their most recent result being a show in resilience in drawing Overton. The tactics of the match were interesting. Overton had technical quality and a self-centered style of play that manifested itself in driving runs on the counter, especially from a wall of a carrying midfielder who nicked a goal in the second half. Defensively, Overton restricted the space around the penalty area and were aggressive in tackling Marcus and Trey, who to their credit kept creating chances through obvious fouls. The referee also played a larger part in the match than expected as he lost control of a few of Overton's more emotional players who began menacing everything in sight. In the end, a looping Ross Blackwell free kick evened the score, but the chess match was clearly won by the Big Red. They parried every counter but one with ease and built well from the wings with Deakins blazing a trail past a loping left back more than once.

In its current iteration, the Big Red Side has plenty of technical execution to go around – they may be the most skillful team in the mid-state – but their innate understanding of space, structure and vision (mainly coming from the central midfield and Trey at the withdrawn forward) will be what sets them apart. Creativity within this system holds the key to the future. To call this a golden generation of MBA soccer may be a bit of hyperbole, but is not too far-fetched. The Class of 2013 has long contributed on the field and now they must prove that they can lead where those before them failed. Big Red soccer has continually hit a ceiling in the late rounds of the state playoffs, but this could be the team and it very well could be the year.

STATE OF THE ARTS

Creativity and everyday life
at MBABy Lucas Littlejohn
Entertainment Editor

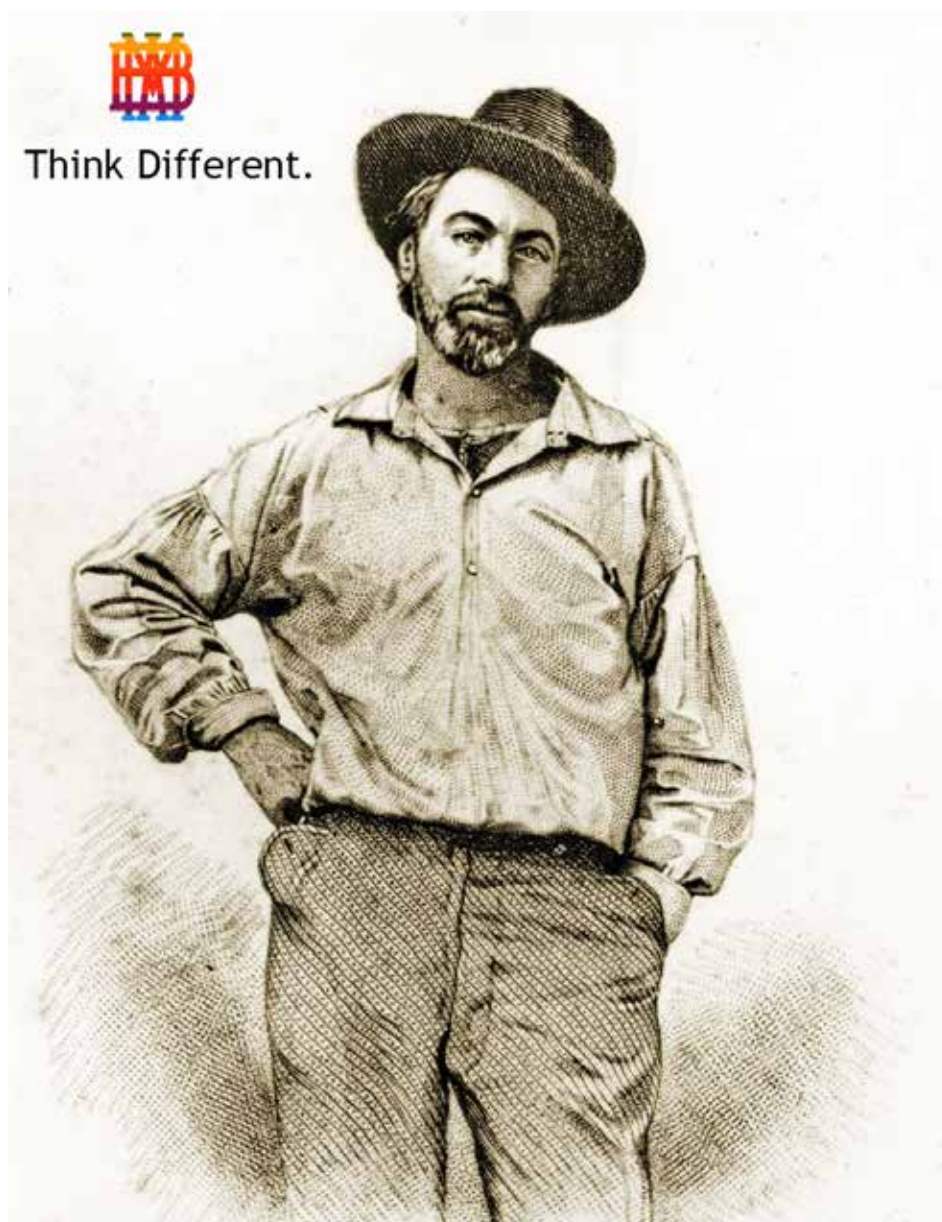
Creative thought among MBA students is currently on the wane, and I'm not totally sure how to label it. It's not a *problem*, per se, but rather a state in which we have found ourselves that deserves to be analyzed.

Creative thought does not only constitute sitting down and writing an e.e. cummings poem out of sheer expressive volition (though such an activity does require quite a bit of creativity). In work and in the arts, it's a faculty extremely necessary to one's problem solving ability. In life, it's simply an attempt to rise above the banal. Or to make one's life more interesting and to avoid the daily rut.

Think about it. Elementary, middle and high school are more or less the only workspaces in which formulaic problem solving is successful. True, working at Wendy's is pretty formulaic, but I hope my readers have higher goals in life than burger-flipping. Otherwise, nearly all of us will have careers that necessitate experimentation, constructive failure, experiential growth, and breakthroughs to solutions. All a part of the creative process. A few years ago, we read Tracy Kidder's *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, the all-school read about Dr. Paul Farmer's exploits in curing tuberculosis in rural countries. He worked in Russia for a stint, where new, vaccine-resistant strains of TB were appearing. Until he discovered the solution for curing these new strains, he had to treat countless patients on a case-by-case basis, creating a "cocktail" of medicines and treatments for each individual suffering from TB. In a job for which Farmer essentially had only his brain — no guides, no teachers, no WebMD to consult — his capacity for creative problem solving was his only tool.

Another example can be found in a company whose products never leave many of our pockets. If creativity is about thinking outside the box, Apple Inc. has cemented this idea into the overarching vision of their company. From 1997 to 2002, their motto was, literally *Think Different*. In explanation of this construction seemingly horrendous in grammar, Steve Jobs insisted, as explained in his biography, that "he wanted 'different' to be used as a noun, as in 'think victory' or 'think beauty.'" The company's television ad accompanying the slogan further championed this vision:

"Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They invent. They imagine. They heal. They explore. They create. They inspire. They push the human race forward. Maybe they have to be crazy. How else can you stare at an empty canvas and see a work of art? Or sit in silence and hear a song that's never been written? Or gaze at a red planet and see a laboratory on wheels? We make tools



for these kinds of people. While some see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do."

While I do support thinking outside the box and breaking the rules of conventionality in the workplace for the sake of creative innovation, it's important to remember that there is a line. You're not a revolutionary thinker because you heard one of Mr. Moxley's non-conformism in transcendentalist literature lectures and decided you're not going to tuck in your shirt from now on. However, the result of Apple's drive to "think different" is their position as one of the most dominant and forward-thinking product creators in computer history, undeniable whether you are a Mac person or a PC person.

It's easy to understand why middle school and high school generally perpetuate notions of thinking formulaically. To pass a math test on the quadratic curve, it's necessary for one to memorize and to know how to plug into the quadratic formula. To achieve a baseline score on a theme or essay, one must understand the conventions of topic and concluding sentences, intro and conclusion paragraphs, and x number of body paragraphs with x number of examples and x number of quotations. If we perform these basic functions, we will receive a number that benefits us somehow in the future, be it a word of congratulations from a parent or a college acceptance. Our intuition tells us that learning these formulas will bring us

success in the workspace. And it's true — for a while, the formulas will work.

But when more is demanded of a student, simple reliance on formulas fails. As I found in Calculus this year and Physics last year, problems require significant critical reasoning to get to a point where a formula can be used. Thus the more difficult classes weed out the students who are unable to traverse these mental hurdles.

Obviously, creativity has always been a major component of the arts. Throughout art history, for example, one was often considered ahead of his time if he simply made a painting differently than everyone around him made a painting. But what is the connection between creativity in artistic expression and creativity in scientific or mathematical problem solving? Well, it all comes from the same source, the critical thinking part of the brain. When one exercises his critical thinking in a specific field, he enhances his problem solving skill for the entire critical thinking part of his brain. For example, the careful consideration of lighting, balance, shape, color, repetition, and variation in a painting one is making will further train his critical thinking skills to solve a physics problem. Furthermore, the patience necessary when one makes mistakes, whether on the painting or on the physics problem, is a direct correlation.

All this analysis has to do with MBA students in that a small core of creators seem to still care about creative expression. The most recent issue of *Archives* is a great indicator. Of the fifteen

poems, two stories, and one essay, only nine were submissions. Three of these submissions came from students who are not on the *Archives* staff. The rest came from Mr. Moxley, for whom writing poetry is an assignment. The editors of the '90's and early 2000's would only pick the best submissions, and the issues themselves were still bursting at the binding with content.

Though an exact reason probably does not exist, I think the diminishing of creativity has occurred as influenced by three factors. Number one, which has always been around, is fear: the classic "what will my friends think if I do something artistic (and actually care about it)?"

There is a different kind of fear associated with creativity at MBA as well, the fear of failure, with which I myself have wrestled as I have continued to pursue art. At MBA, it's easy to emphasize that there is a clear right way of doing things and solving problems. As students grow older and more sophisticated, it's important to teach the idea that failure is a platform for learning and struggling is a part of the creative process.

Number two is that I think the average student buys into the talk that "MBA's curriculum is difficult" so much that he does not allow himself time to express himself. Trust me, I understand that MBA is one of the most academically challenging high schools in the South, and I can't imagine working as hard anywhere else. But one of the best pieces of advice I've ever received was from my sister, who told me I had to *make* time for what I enjoy. No matter how much work you think you have, you still have time to do what you enjoy, as long as you make time.

Number three is the profound impact of technology and the internet on our ability to think for ourselves. With unlimited knowledge and countless services at our fingertips, it has become less necessary that we need to solve problems on a regular basis. While technology aids the naturally creative in his process, it weakens the problem solving ability of the rest depending on how attached they are to technology. (Isn't it interesting to think that it took creative minds to build gadgets that influence a weaker creative capacity in most of their users?)

The bottom line is that the societal problems we are in charge of solving today cannot be approached with the formulas of the past, and the problems of the future will not be solved by the conventions of the present. New strains of TB will arise, new boundaries in personal computers will manifest, and demanding work in fields we do not even know of today will emerge. I applaud the administration for their actions to foster creativity, such as the Anne Potter Wilson room makeover. MBA already produces scholars. By continuing to emphasize the importance of the creative process and its influence on critical thinking, MBA can produce an outstanding breadth of thinkers, ready to approach the problems of the future.

The kids call it sampling

DJ Shadow gets back to his roots

By John Higham
Staff Writer

"Now look, we're going to do this for a little while and that's it, because I am not going to do it the way you want. I will never be able to do it your way. I can only do it my way, and if you are not satisfied with my best, then that's too f*****g bad!"

The ominous audio clip fades out and a brooding alien drone builds up. A kick drum begins to thump as the DJ incorporates an upbeat violin piece. A child's voice announces, "DJ Shadow: All Bases C-C-C-Covered!" And so begins hip hop icon DJ Shadow's infamous South Beach Set. It was this same set that was deemed "too futuristic" by Miami's The Mansion nightclub as they asked the headlining California DJ to end his performance early.

DJ Shadow is the stage name of Josh Davis, a San Francisco local who pioneered the sampling movement of the 1990's. During his time at the University of California, Davis began experimenting with early electronic instruments. He dug through countless underplayed and aging records searching for sounds that caught his ear. Davis purchased an Akai MPC60, a device that allows the user to record short audio clips (called samples) from tapes and records and play them back on command. Davis would assign each sample to one of 16 keys and arrange them together to form brand new songs.

In 1996 under the name DJ Shadow, Davis released his first LP entitled *Endtroducing*. Shadow's debut album was the first album to contain absolutely no original audio. The album was entirely comprised of previously recorded samples from other artists. Although the album was commercially and critically successful, it was a very controversial piece of music. Some praised it as revolutionary and innovative while others called Shadow a thief. Despite the controversy, the



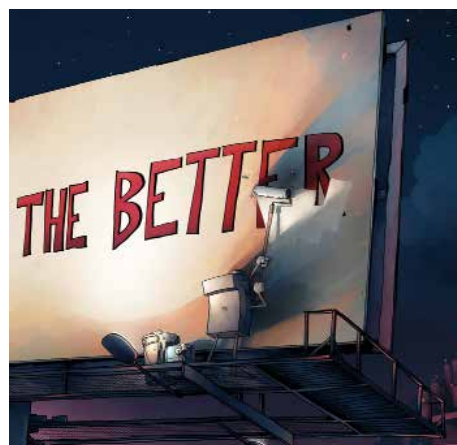
POSITIVE SPIN: After years in the electronic wilderness, DJ Shadow's recent tour has been a return to the gritty, sampled sound that brought him success to begin with.

majority of critics raved about Shadow's extraordinary work. *Endtroducing* is one of only a handful of albums to ever receive a perfect 10 rating by Pitchfork. It is still held today as one of the most influential electronic albums of all time.



SO FAR, SO DECENT: In the fifteen years between *Endtroducing*... (1996) and *The Less You Know, the Better* (2011), DJ Shadow's output has more varied, and received more and more mixed reviews.

DJ Shadow's musical style is highly diverse, and understandably so considering the library from which he samples. Shadow has developed a personal record collection of more than 60,000 albums. To put that into perspective, that



is over 4 years of music. In the process known as "digging," he sorts through this massive collection and selects samples from nearly every genre, from piano concertos to freeform jazz to progressive rock. Many of Shadow's songs also feature mysterious dialogue from movies and unknown sources to set the mood of his music. The seemingly motley assortment of samples mixes and flows unbelievably smoothly to create one of the most recognizable sounds in all of electronic music.

Sampling was already a widely popular practice, but until *Endtroducing*, it was used only to supplement original works. DJ Shadow transformed the sampling movement by doing nothing but rearranging borrowed works. Shadow's music started a genre all of its own, and it's never stagnant. His works have evolved and changed with each subsequent album and tour. He started out producing minimalist drum and bass tracks as on *Endtroducing*. Over the next few years, Shadow released a number of experimental singles and compilations such as *Preemptive Strike*. In 2002, he released *The Private Press*, an album that transitioned from the dark and doleful tracks of previous albums and brought forth orchestral, ambient beats and vocals. Significantly less beat-driven than previous works, Shadow's most recent LP, entitled *The Less You Know, The Better*, sounds like an electronic interpretation of rock music.

Following the release of this album, Shadow's live performances have taken a new direction. Currently in the middle of his "All Bases Covered" Tour, DJ Shadow is returning to his roots on the turntables and sampler. He is not using a computer and instead is focusing on scratching, cutting, and live sampling, continuing to evolve and take the risks that make him a transcendent artist.

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Old albums about getting older

Two writers ponder coming of age



In the aeroplane over the me

By Alex Floyd
Staff Writer

On March 2, 2013, I turn nineteen years old. (Happy birthday to me!) But more importantly, in my opinion, this date marks the approximate tenth anniversary of the first time I ever heard Neutral Milk Hotel's masterpiece *In the Aeroplane Over the Sea*. Jeff Mangum's bildungsroman of adolescence full of love songs for Anne Frank. Just to give a little context about the life of nine year old Alex, look at this picture. Armed with impending fatness, a fresh painful wound from my parents' recent divorce, and confusion about the meaning of anything and everything, I laid in my bed as my brother played *Aeroplane* through the speakers in the bedroom we shared. As the music made contact with my ears I envisioned a grotesque version of myself being given the secret wisdoms to tackle his insecurities and ugliness. I watched monster me grow up at super speed into the prototypical idealistic young male who in my nine year old mind resembled something akin to Peter Parker discovering his spidey powers for the first time and beating James Franco to get the girl. It's not as weird as it sounds. Every guy wants to be better than James Franco at something. We can't help it.

Aeroplane encompasses what it means to be growing up: the discovery of self, the painfully awkward first encounters with those of the opposite gender, and the staggering omnipresence of all things sexual. But most importantly the album deals with the innocence of lost innocence. The album begins with "King of Carrot Flowers Part 1" which is easily the most accessible song on the album. This song gives the first glimpse of disillusionment as two children discover love for the first time while observing adult couples crumble and shatter with the joy of life evaporating within them. But this disillusionment is subconscious at first. The music is cheery, soothing and calm. This is the innocence: the acceptance of all things as pure even while staring corruption in the face. Mangum follows this lead track with "King of Carrot Flowers Parts 2 & 3" which shifts into a loud crescendo of exploration. The desire to share newfound knowledge and beliefs without the ability to do so. These are difficulties with which we all have struggled. Every single one of us has run into a room full of friends eager

to share good news or gossip only to have our voice crack embarrassingly in our excitement. Yet we keep speaking.

In the title track, the innocent boy in the album grows older and colder: "What a beautiful dream/ that could flash on the screen/ in the blink of an eye and be gone from me." All things are ephemeral. Beauty especially will seem tainted. (Example: When you're ten and go to a hibachi restaurant the chefs seem amazingly talented but if you go now you realize they are really not that good.) That obviously is a completely different scenario then Anne Frank who had that purity ripped from her by Nazi Germany and the Holocaust, but even in the concentration camps she remains hopeful and pure of heart. This purity leads Mangum to idealize Anne Frank as the epitome of innocence and in the song "Two-Headed Boy," Mangum creates the mutated version of that innocence that through our maturation we have deformed into something to keep in a jar and separate from ourselves. From this point on we are contaminated. We have changed. Something or someone has corrupted our vision of virtue and joy into one of angst and cynicism. In "Communist Daughter," even nature is squalid and stained.

This filthiness and ugliness is why Anne Frank is important. On the final track of the album the girl, presumably Anne Frank, cares for the two headed boy. She feeds him and protects him despite his ugliness but she leaves him all the same. "Don't hate her when she gets up to leave." I'm at the point where she's leaving me. The formative years of my life are ending. That is why it is important to listen to Neutral Milk Hotel's brilliant album now. It is childhood. Listen to this album now when the images have meaning and significance, not in ten years when it all turns into pure nostalgia. Think of the adults you know. All of them live a portion of their lives in nostalgia, looking back, but right now we have nothing to be nostalgic about. It's brilliant. We look forward, and move forward constantly. Instead, listen to *In the Aeroplane Over the Sea* and be exactly where you are. I'm terrified, a year away from twenty, everything becoming dark and weighted with responsibility, but, as Neutral Milk Hotel would put it, "for now we are young so let's lie in the sun and count every beautiful thing we can see."

What it's all about

By John Higham
Staff Writer

Having a simple conversation about a Bob Dylan album, much less your favorite Bob Dylan album, is a process fraught with peril. The risk is that you mention your conversational partner's favorite album, spurring a long string of hyperbole over just *how good* their favorite is, or worse if they disagree with your choice, they spend the rest of the time pontificating about how wrong/ philistine/stupid you are for liking anything other than the canon. The same risk exists for me when I talk about the Beatles (I like *Rubber Soul* best - sue me). For Dylan I cut through the more common (probably better) choices (*Freewheelin'*, *Blonde on Blonde*, *Highway 61 Revisited*, and *Blood on the Tracks*) in favor of 1970's *New Morning*.

To be clear, I do not think I have chosen his best album - the only song on the album that would be considered a Dylan classic is "The Man in Me," and even then because of tacit approval from a flying Jeff "The Dude" Lebowksi. *New Morning* is, however, among the more pleasurable listens in Dylan's catalogue. The croak of his late sixties masterpieces has receded into something more human and natural, and none of the songs sprawl into ten minute odysseys a la "Desolation Row." Maybe I should give him more credit, but Dylan never intended this album to be on par with his lauded creations that had by 1970 taken on a pop-cultural life of their own. More than any other, this album is about Dylan getting some things figured out for himself. After the torrent of change in his early career, he had to readjust. *New Morning* is a musical record of that readjustment.

Dylan probes heavier subject matter in the Civil Rights and Viet Nam era. That catapulted his career into *New Morning*, slowing down and seeing what really makes him happy. The most salient example comes from the back-story of "Day of the Locust." As the legend goes, Dylan was offered an honorary doctorate from Princeton which he was hesitant about accepting in the first place. When he finally did decide to take the honor, he refused to wear a cap and gown until the folks from Princeton nearly burned the diploma. All of this over a background of a 17 year cicada outbreak (if your memory

needs refreshing, YouTube would be happy to assist), which is the central theme of Dylan's satirical take. The moral, at least for me, is that the pressures of expectation should never be cause to compromise individuality.

Dylan probably should have been the magnanimous genius that Princeton imagined - they were, after all, giving him a free doctorate - but the same neurotic, biting artist that they were rewarding for his brilliance would never yield to something as pretentious and petty as a wardrobe change. Dylan wrote and sang in denim. Why not give him the diploma in denim? Instead of the unrelenting metaphor that makes clear the craft of his earlier work, though, Dylan chooses to let the scene exist on its own, free of comment. That shows maturity, but also an unworried attitude. He could have camouflaged the meaning with epic similes and croaked through it and that would have brought him more critical acclaim. Dylan, in the vein of *Self Portrait* from the same year, decided to be content with what he sees. He uses his satisfaction as an opportunity to introspect, not criticize.

The lesson I take from *New Morning* is hard to put into words. I could talk about meeting Elvis in "Went to See the Gypsy" as an expression of Dylan's childlike joy. I can talk about the idyllic and melodic "New Morning" and Dylan's connection with the countryside. Everything I want to say and everything I learned, Dylan expressed best himself in "Sign on the Window," a tragically overlooked part of his musical repertoire. The melody meanders behind Dylan moseying through a happy portrait of his ideal domestic life. Without the pressures to be a genius, Dylan would sing the way he sings here and do what he sings about: build a quiet cabin with a stream for fishing and a happy wife and children. As he says himself, "That must be what it's all about."

I understand that life can force things upon a man. Dylan could have let the reputation of his voice and lyricism make this album another unhappy meditation on the flaws of the society around him. Instead Dylan looked into what made *him* happy. There's a lesson in that for all of us. That must be what it's all about.



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I NEED MY SPACE: David understood that young artists need a place all their own

The Case for AP Art Studios

By Lucas Littlejohn
Entertainment Editor

In the wake of enormous change around MBA the past two years, nearly every facet of the school has been enhanced and expanded by new facilities. With the recent move-in to the dining hall, the Art Department is now in a unique position with double its original space. There has been talk of extending the art studios to the music rooms, and moving the music program downstairs. As an AP art student and one who has worked in a variety of studio spaces, I have a few suggestions for what could become studios for AP artists.

In a way, less is more when it comes to art studios. A minimalist approach to the new spaces would positively affect the work produced within them. The new studios don't need to be fancy, pristine, or decorated, they just need open space, blank

walls, and windows. Cabinets and racks for materials and pieces are extremely necessary, but these storage spaces wouldn't need to take up much room with only a few kids working at a time.

The painting studios I worked in at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago last summer are a great example. The building is bare-bones, with concrete floors, white painted concrete block walls, and only a sink and yellow hazardous material storage cabinet as the permanent fixtures of each room. The freedom of each room was at first jarring in contrast with the mess and chaos of the MBA studios, but I quickly learned that the less clutter a studio has, the less distraction is present for the artist. With blank walls and concrete floors surrounding him, an artist can step back from the stress of a school day and focus on making great art.



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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: *GALEN BULLINGTON*

WARRIOR'S TOUCH



COURTESY OF VIVIAN KOMANDO

By Lucas Littlejohn
Entertainment Editor

Every month, I interview a different MBA artist (or musician, performing artist, etc.) to celebrate the incredible talent of our artists on the Hill. The subject of this issue's Artist Spotlight is senior Galen Bullington. Galen was recently chosen for an exclusive exhibition: "10 and 2." It's a great honor for a great guy.

Bell Ringer: What has your art career at MBA looked like?

Haha! My art "career" at MBA. Honestly, I was never really sure where my art would take me. I remember having to pick enrichment courses coming into the 8th grade. While I had had some nominal experience prior to MBA (in the form of a few local classes), my interest in art was little more than the fact that I wasn't absolutely terrible at sketching. Also, I knew that I didn't have any talent for theater whatsoever...so art it was.

I suppose that I did have sort of a "breakthrough" that 8th grade year though. Ms. Hollifield asked me to complete the playbill for the junior school production that year, *Androcles and the Lion*. All I remember was staying up late for like 4 nights trying to finish it...looking back, those weren't terribly late compared to what was to come in high school! Either way, I did complete the poster, and I stand by that perhaps my most lasting legacy on MBA's campus came from my first year here. To this day, that poster for *Androcles and the Lion* is still hanging in Massey.

Sophomore year was sort of the first true breakthrough year, however. I acquired a love of oil painting in Mr. Womack's Art II class. Perhaps it was just the Pink Floyd vibes, but that oil painting was the first work that I was truly proud of. It even ended up in my college portfolio application to architecture school. The tail end of sophomore year was important in more ways than one. I suppose that I created enough decent work that at least it looked like I knew what I was doing. Nevertheless, I ended up being invited to work in AP art the next year.

By far though, the summer between my sophomore and junior years

was the most important to my development as an artist. Two opportunities radically changed the way that I thought during those few summer months. First, I attended a summer architecture camp at the University of Illinois. The two weeks I spent there was the first time that I had really had any experience developing a project in full. It set me on my path to pursuing a major in architecture in college. For those unfamiliar with architecture, it really pushes you to envision a 2-D design...and never be content with it. You have to take those initial sketches, those random lines and shapes and spaces on a piece of paper and imagine an entirely interactive 3-D landscape around them. In this way, your design becomes something dynamic – it has to draw people in and move them in a totally unexpected way. It's quite magical really. While in a completely different medium, these same thought processes are what shape a lot of the work that I produce today.

The second thing that happened that summer was that I discovered the camera. I still remember the photo assignment that Dr. Komando had given us to complete during the time that we were off. We had to photograph subjects in all these different categories...birds, reflections, engines...bunch of crazy stuff. Still, I completed every last one of them. I think we had to take like 100 pictures in total; I showed up the first day of class with somewhere around 3000. I guess you could say that I went a bit overboard. But then, no one ever said that artists were exactly normal, did they?

Today, I work almost exclusively in the medium of photography. If you ever see a weird kid in the back of studio intently staring at the screen of his laptop, it's probably me working on my photos...or wasting time on Facebook. Although I work mostly in photography, many of the same ideas that I had to previously engage with in other mediums permeate my work today. To return to the thoughts about architecture from before, I am never happy with what I call a "static" photo. I don't want someone to come up to my work, stare at it for a couple seconds then say, "oh cool" and move on. A photograph has to be dynamic; it has to have multiple layers...it has to draw you in.

What are you working on right now for your AP Portfolio?

The series that I am working on right now is one that I call *Vibrations*. The works try to address the multiple viewpoints and disorientation of urban life. For those that know me, I live about an hour and half away from MBA and make the drive to school with my dad every day and the other 70-mile commute back our farm every night. Although I live in a rural area, most of my life has been spent at MBA or in the various other cities across the country to which I travel for debate tournaments, summer camps, and all the other events and competitions characteristic to a high-schooler trying to get into college. Despite all this, the urban environment is still very foreign to me, and this duality to my life had always been one that has affected me greatly. *Vibrations* is the representation of my impressions and the impressions left by others as I have traveled through these urban environments. Many of the photographs come from a trip that I took to New York City, others from Chicago, New Orleans, and right here in Nashville.

Who or what inspires/influences you the most, and how does it show in your art?

Hmm, that's a difficult question. Honestly, I try not to look at other artists work that much. Now, that's not entirely true; there are PLENTY of artists that have influenced me throughout the past few years, but I don't think that there is one that I can point to and say, "Hah! That was my inspiration!" Overall, I have found that the more that I look at other artists work, the more that I want to be like *them*. After awhile it sort of drives you crazy...either you're not good enough, or creative enough, or just why couldn't *you* have thought of that. This is not to say that you shouldn't let yourself be inspired or be averse to interacting with all the other artists out there. Ultimately, I just have to remind myself that this is *my* journey and *my* way to express creativity no matter what anyone thinks of my work.

How do you plan on continuing art in college and in life?

I will be an architecture major

at Miami University this upcoming fall; although, first and foremost, I will always consider myself a student of design. I hope to pursue the impact that design has on our daily lives, and utilize design in a way that improves the everyday experience for people of all backgrounds. Perhaps I will take some photography courses in college, but regardless of academic credit, photography will always remain a passion close to my heart and a creative outlet. I hope to one day have a national gallery exhibit, but I'm sure that's far off in the future!

What advice would you give to younger students interested in art?

Quite often, I get something along the lines of this type of reaction to my work: "Wow, what kind of camera do you have/use!" or "I bet you have a nice/expensive camera!" While the simple "Wow!" is always appreciated, I usually proceed to politely explain to these people that I DON'T have a fancy camera or equipment, that I DON'T have any expensive software, and that I have NEVER had any formal photography classes. Yes, you too can be a photographer! The truth is that I have an old point-and-shoot camera that my grandparents gave to me 6 or 7 years ago, I only use what software came on my computer or I can find online for free, and my secret process of taking and working with photos is that I just go by what looks good. If I could say anything to younger artists, it would be to not feel constrained by what you have around you. Art is whatever you make it to be, and an artist is just whenever you tell yourself that you are one. It takes a lot of courage, and I'm still working on that myself, but it's definitely a rewarding process. Finally, I've got throw a last pitch in to take advice from your studio teachers! It took me a while to work through that and what I felt about my own work. Other people are there to help you, but never compromise from your own vision.

Oh, and I have my first big gallery show in Nashville, beginning April 4th at the Two Moon Gallery. Please and thank you to all those kind enough to stop by for a few minutes and come see it!

M(B)AD-LIB: *The Great Panini Press Stampede*

It was a normal _____ (day of the week). _____ (noun, plural) were _____ (verb ending in -ing) their copies of _____ (MBA book), _____ (teacher) was _____ (verb -ing), even the lowly _____ (plural diminutive of junior schoolers) were _____ (verb-ing) in their _____ (typical MBA article of clothing).

Suddenly the _____ (plural diminutive for junior schoolers) lifted their _____ (body part) to _____ (verb). They were very _____ (adjective) but then they began to _____ (verb) towards the _____ (adjective) dining hall. They all _____ (verb-ed) in their _____ (noun). Their _____ (typical MBA shoes) _____ (verb, past tense) against the ground with a great _____ (sound). In a few _____ (nouns) of an _____ (animal possessive), they had crossed the _____ (noun). The upperclassmen _____ (verb-ed) out of the way. The grass behind the _____ (collective noun) was completely _____ (adjective). On the steps, they nearly _____ (verb-ed) _____ (teacher). _____ (same teacher) had to _____ (verb). At the doors the herd of _____ (noun, plural) let out a great _____ (sound) and threw up their _____ (body part, plural) in celebration. They had successfully crossed the _____ (noun) as a group.

Inside the building, they rushed the _____ (adjective) serving area where they found their new _____

(religious idol from Ancient Meso-American society). Right there, on the _____ (noun) was a _____ (adjective) new Panini Press.

At first they _____ (verb-ed) the press with their _____ (part of the face), but after a few hours, their _____ (same part of face) were horribly and irreparably burned. What a silly group of _____ (noun, plural)! Then they found the _____ (food) and spread it on the _____ (food), but instead of a _____ (noun), they rudely used their _____ (noun, plural). Before they could _____ (verb) their _____ (adjective) creation, the seniors swooped in and _____ (verb-ed) the microbes with a _____ (useful gardening tool, preferably with spikes). "Silly _____ (noun, plural) you can't do that here! You are but lowly _____ (noun, plural), no more _____ (adjective) than a(n) _____ (noun, preferably a funny one).

That day, the MBA community learned a few valuable _____ (noun, plural). 1. The Memphis _____ (animal, plural) are way better than the San Antonio _____ (Cowboy article of clothing). 2. _____ (Actor/actress is not as _____ (adjective) as _____ (Mila Kunis). 3. My _____ (Drink of choice in new dining hall) tastes better _____ (verb-ed) with the _____ (adjective) remains of a(n) _____ (adverb) _____ (Verb-ed) junior schooler. 4. And most importantly, you never let the 'crobies near your _____ (adjective) Panini press.

The Perks of Being a Wallace Flower (or Quotation)

The administration was having a bit of trouble naming our new building and finding quotations for the walls. Our own Harrison Davies took a crack at it. Are they worthy? We leave it to you, good reader, to be the judge.

1. BERNATAVITZ'S FINE ITALIAN DINER
2. MINISTRY OF LOVE
3. HELMS DEEP
4. HAYWOOD MOXLEY MEMORIAL WATER PARK
5. THE HALL OF DOOM
6. THURMONATOR'S RESTAURANT
7. VORKUTA
8. THE WELLS HAMILTON PROLETARIAT CENTER
9. KINGS ISLAND
10. THE FOTRESSS OF SOLID, DUDE

1. "GOOD MEN MUST NOT OBEY THE LAWS TO DO WELL" -RALPH WALDO EMERSON
2. "BOYS SCHOOLS (LIKE LIFE) ARE 90 PERCENT MEN. THE OTHER HALF ARE TEACHERS." -YOGI BERRA
3. "OUR FIRST DATE WAS THE WAFFLE HOUSE." - 2 CHAINZ
4. "BEATING YOUR FOUR YEAR OLD COUSIN IN CHECKERS IS A GREAT WAY TO MAXIMIZE SUCCESS." -JAMES FRANKLIN
5. "BEATING YOUR SON WITH HIS SHIN GUARDS IS THE BEST WAY TO MAXIMIZE SUCCESS." - KEVIN STALLINGS
6. "SO, HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEW RULE ABOUT SHIRTTAILS?" - COMMANDER WEBB
7. "BEING A CELEBRITY IS PROBABLY THE CLOSEST THING TO BEING A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN AS YOU CAN GET." -KEVIN
8. "WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS!" - KARL MARX
9. "OH MY GOD IT'S A MIDGET." -ROBERT SYLVESTER KELLY
10. "AS A TEENAGER I WAS MORE OF AN ANARCHIST BUT NOW I WANT PEOPLE TO BE HARMONIOUS" -NICOLAS CAGE